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v90

Habakkuk

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Habakkuk

1 ¹ I am Habakkuk the prophet. This is the message that Yahweh gave me in a vision.

2 I said, “Yahweh, how long must I keep praying to you for help

before you respond?

I ask you to rescue us from people who are acting violently everywhere,

but you do not rescue us!

3 Why do you make me keep seeing people doing evil?

Why do you not punish people who are doing what is wrong?

I see people destroying things and acting violently,

and there is fighting and quarreling everywhere.

4 No one obeys your instruction,

and judges never decide cases fairly.

Wicked people always defeat righteous people in the courts,

so that no one ever gets justice.”

5 Yahweh replied to me, “Look at the completely amazing thing happening among the other nations;

you will be astounded, because I am doing something during this time that you would not believe

even if someone told you about it.

6 I am making the Chaldeans powerful; they are fierce and swift soldiers.

They will march across the entire earth

and conquer countries that do not belong to them.

7 They are terrifying people who do whatever they want and pay no attention to the laws of other countries.

8 Their horses are faster than leopards

and fiercer than wolves at night.

Their horsemen gallop swiftly from distant places;

they swoop down like eagles rushing to kill their prey.

9 They all advance with the purpose of acting violently. They advance like a desert wind,

gathering prisoners as numerous as grains of sand.

10 They mock the kings and rulers of other countries

and laugh at all the cities with high walls.

They pile up dirt against those walls

and climb up to capture those cities.

11 They rush past like the wind and move on.

But they are very guilty, because they think that their own military power is their god.”

12 Then I said, “Yahweh, you have always been God from ancient times.

You are my Holy One; we will not die.

You have appointed the Chaldeans to judge us and punish us.

You are our Rock, and you have sent them to correct us.

13 You are pure, and you cannot endure seeing evil, so why are you tolerating treacherous people?

Why do you say nothing
when wicked people destroy
people who are more
righteous than they are?

14 You treat us like fish in the
sea
or like other sea creatures
that have no one to rule over
them.

15 The soldiers of Chaldea
treat us like fish; they pull us
out with hooks
or catch us in their nets,
and they rejoice and
celebrate.

16 They worship the weapons
with which they capture people
and offer sacrifices to them
and burn incense in front of
them. They say, 'Those
weapons have enabled us to
become rich and eat
expensive food.'

17 Will you allow them to keep
conquering people?
Will you allow them to keep
destroying people of other
nations without showing any
mercy?"

2 **1** After I said that, I said to
myself, "I will climb up into my
guard post,

and stand there in my
watchtower.

I will wait there to find out
what Yahweh will say,
to know how I should
answer."

2 Then Yahweh replied to me,

"Write plainly on tablets what I
am revealing to you in this
vision,

and then read it to a
messenger

so he can run with it to tell it
to other people.

3 In this vision I will talk about
things that will happen when I
decide.

They will certainly happen in
the future, I do not lie.

You want those things to
happen immediately, but they
are not happening.

But wait patiently for them
to happen!

When they occur, they will
occur quickly,
and not slowly.

4 Think about the people in
that proud nation!

They are certainly not doing
what is righteous.

But people who are righteous
will live

because they faithfully do
what I want them to do.

5 Drunk armies are foolish,
they cannot stop pillaging.
No matter how much they kill
and steal, they want more.

They will conquer every
people group they
encounter.

6 But soon all those whom they
have captured will ridicule the
soldiers from Babylonia!

They will make fun of them,
saying,

"Terrible things will happen
to you who have stolen
things from other countries!

You got many things by forcing
people to give them to you.

But you certainly will not
keep those things for long!'

7 Suddenly those you owe a
debt to because you pillaged
them will come to pillage you.

You will be afraid.

They will recapture all the
things that you stole from
them.

8 You stole things from the
people of many nations.

You murdered people of many
people groups,
and you destroyed their land
and their cities.

So those who are still alive will
steal valuable things from you.

9 Terrible things will happen to
you people of Babylonia who
build big houses

with money that you got by
forcing others to give it to
you.

You are proud, and you think
that your houses will be safe
because you have built them
in places where you can
easily defend them.

10 But because you have
destroyed others,
you have harmed yourself
and disgraced your own
family!

11 The very stones in the walls
of your houses
and the wooden beams in
your ceilings show that you
did evil things to get them

12 Terrible things will happen
to you people of Babylonia who
kill people in order to build
cities,

cities that you build by using
money that you have gotten
by committing crimes.

13 But Yahweh, commander of
the angel armies, has declared
that fire will destroy everything
built by people who do things
like that;

they will have worked hard
uselessly.

14 But in contrast, just as
water fills the oceans,

Yahweh will fill the earth
with people who know how
glorious he is.

15 Terrible things will happen
to you people of Babylonia,

who cause people who live in
nearby countries to become
drunk.

You force them to drink a lot of
drugged wine

until they are drunk and
then they walk around naked
because you are happy when
you see that.

16 But you are the ones whom
Yahweh will soon disgrace
instead of honor.

Yahweh will make you drink
so much wine that you will
also stagger around drunk
and naked.

Yahweh will powerfully judge
and curse you,

and everyone will see that
you are weak and not strong.

17 You did violent things to the
people in Lebanon,
and you killed the wild
animals there,

so you will be punished
severely for doing that.

You have killed many people
and you have destroyed their
lands and their cities.

18 An idol that someone carves
or casts from metal does not
help anyone at all;
it only deceives the people
who trust it.

The person who makes an idol
trusts something that he
himself created,

something that cannot even
speak! **19** Terrible things
will happen to you who say
to lifeless idols that are
made of wood or rock,
'Wake up!'

Stone idols certainly cannot tell
you what you should do;

they look nice because they
are covered with silver and
gold,
but they are not alive.

20 But Yahweh is in his holy temple;
everyone on the earth should
be silent in his presence!"

3 ¹ Habakkuk the prophet
prayed this prayer, set to the tune
called Shigyonoth.

2 Yahweh, I have heard reports
about what you have done,
and I am in awe of all you
have done.

Do again in our time what you
did long ago!

Even when you are angry
with us,
act mercifully toward us!

3 God came from Teman,
and the Holy One came from
Mount Paran.

His glory covered the sky,
and praise for him filled the
whole earth.

4 He shone like the sunrise;
his rays of light flashed from
his hands,
and that is where he
conceals his awesome power.

5 Sickness went ahead of him
like a soldier,
and burning disease
followed behind him.

6 He stopped and surveyed the
earth.

He looked at the nations and
made them tremble.

The mountains that have
existed from the beginning of
time collapsed;

the ancient hills crumbled.

He has always existed and
always will.

7 I saw that the people in the
tents of Cushan were
distressed,

and the people of Midian
were trembling like tent
curtains.

8 Yahweh, were you angry at
the rivers and streams?

Were you furious at the sea?

No! You rode on your horses
and on your chariots

to defeat your enemies and
rescue your people.

9 You took your bow out of its
cover, ready to shoot.

You made ready your arrows,
just as you had promised.

You split the ground, and water
gushed out in rivers.

10 The mountains trembled
when they saw you.

A great flood of water
rushed past.

The ocean depths roared loudly
and seemed to raise their
hands high in the air.

11 The sun and the moon
stopped moving

as your arrows flew through
the sky like flashes of light
and your shining spear
gleamed brightly.

12 You marched across the land
in your anger,
and you trampled the
nations in your fury.

13 You went out to rescue your
people,

to save the king you had
chosen.

You crushed the ruler of the
wicked people,

destroying his power from
his crown to his very
foundation.

14 With the enemy's own spear
you killed their leader,
who had come rushing like a
whirlwind to scatter us

and gloated like they were
about to devour helpless people
in hiding.

15 You smashed through the
sea on your horses,
churning through the great
surging waves.

16 When I heard this, my
stomach churned inside me;
at the sound of it, my lips
trembled.

My bones felt like they were
rotting,

and my legs gave way
beneath me.

However, I will wait quietly for
the time when disaster

comes to the people who are
attacking us.

17 The fig trees may not
blossom,
and there may be no grapes
on the vines.

The olive trees may produce
nothing,

and the fields may yield no
crops.

The flocks of sheep and goats
may disappear from the
pastures,

and there may be no cattle
in the stalls.

18 Even so, I will rejoice
because I know Yahweh.

I will be joyful because
Yahweh is the God who saves
me.

19 Yahweh the Lord makes me
strong.

He makes me as sure-footed
as a deer

and enables me to go safely to
the high places.

(This is for the choir director to
use when the people sing this
prayer with stringed
instruments.)