Habakkuk

CHAPTER 1

**Habakkuk Complains**

The oracle which Habakkuk the prophet saw. 2Yahweh, how long will I cry, and You will not hear? I cry out to you “Violence!”- and will You not save? 3Why do You show me iniquity, and look at perversity? For destruction and violence are before me. There is strife, and contention rises up. 4Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth; for the wicked surround the righteous, therefore justice is perverted.

**God’s Reply**

5Look among the nations, watch, and wonder marvellously; for I am working a work in your days, which you will not believe though it is told you. 6For, behold, I raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, that march through the breadth of the earth, to possess dwelling places that are not theirs. 7They are feared and dreaded. Their judgment and their dignity proceed from themselves. 8Their horses also are swifter than leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves. Their horsemen press proudly on. Yes, their horsemen come from afar, they fly as an eagle that hastens to devour. 9All of them come for violence; their hordes face the desert; he gathers prisoners like sand. 10Yes, he scoffs at kings, and princes are a derision to him. He laughs at every stronghold, for he builds up an earthen siege ramp, and takes it. 11Then he sweeps by like the wind, and goes on further. He is indeed guilty; his strength is his god.

**Habakkuk Complains Again**

12Aren’t You from everlasting, Yahweh my God, my Holy One? We also will not die! Yahweh, you have appointed him for judgment. You, Rock, have established him to punish. 13You who have purer eyes than to see evil, and who cannot look on perversity, why do You tolerate those who deal treacherously, and keep silent when the wicked swallows up the man who is more righteous than he, 14and make men like the fish of the sea, like the creeping things, that have no ruler over them? 15He takes up all of them with the hook; he catches them in his net, and gathers them in his dragnet. Therefore he rejoices and is glad. 16Therefore he sacrifices to his net, and burns incense to his dragnet, because by them his life is luxurious, and his food is good. 17Will he therefore continually empty his net, and kill the nations without mercy?

CHAPTER 2

I will stand at my watch, and set myself on the ramparts, and will look out to know what He will say to me, and what answer I will get concerning my complaint.

**God’s Reply**

2Yahweh answered me, “Write the vision, and make it plain on tablets, that he who reads it may run. 3For the vision is yet for the appointed time, and it speeds toward the end, and won’t prove false. Though it takes time, wait for it; because it will surely come. It won’t delay. 4Behold, his soul is puffed up. It is not upright in him; but the justified one will live due to his faith. 5Yes, moreover, wine is treacherous. A proud man who doesn’t stay at home, who enlarges his desire as Sheol, and he is like death, and can’t be satisfied, but gathers to himself all nations, and heaps to himself all peoples. 6Won’t all these take up a parable against him, and a taunting proverb against him, and say, ‘Woe to him who increases that which is not his, and who enriches himself by extortion! How long?’ 7Won’t your debtors rise up suddenly, and wake up those who now make you tremble, and you will be their victim? 8Because you have plundered many nations, all the remnant of the peoples will plunder you, because of men’s blood, and for the violence done to the land, to the city and to all who dwell in it. 9Woe to him who gets an evil gain for his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the hand of evil! 10You have devised shame to your house, by cutting off many peoples, and have sinned against your soul. 11For the stone will cry out of the wall, and the beam out of the woodwork will answer it. 12Woe to him who builds a town with blood, and establishes a city by iniquity! 13Behold, isn’t it of Yahweh of Armies that the peoples labour for the fire, and the nations weary themselves for vanity? 14For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh, as the waters cover the sea. 15“Woe to him who gives his neighbour drink, pouring your inflaming wine until they are drunk, so that you may gaze at their naked bodies! 16You are filled with shame, and not glory. You will also drink, and be exposed! The cup of Yahweh’s right hand will come around to you, and disgrace will cover your glory. 17For the violence done to Lebanon will overwhelm you, and the destruction of the animals, which made them afraid; because of men’s blood, and for the violence done to the land, to every city and to those who dwell in them. 18“What value does the engraved image have, that its maker has engraved it; the molten image, even the teacher of lies, that he who fashions its form trusts in it, to make mute idols? 19Woe to him who says to the wood, ‘Awake!’ or to the mute stone, ‘Arise!’ Shall this teach? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in its midst. 20But Yahweh is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him!”

CHAPTER 3

**A Prayer of Habakkuk**

A prayer of Habakkuk, the prophet, set to victorious music. 2Yahweh, I have heard of Your fame. I stand in awe of Your deeds, Yahweh. Renew your work in the midst of the years. In the midst of the years make it known. In wrath, You remember mercy. 3God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and His praise filled the earth. 4His splendour is like the sunrise. Rays shine from His hand, where His power is hidden. 5Plague went before Him, and pestilence followed His feet. 6He stood, and shook the earth. He looked, and made the nations tremble. The ancient mountains crumbled. The age-old hills collapsed. His ways are eternal. 7I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction. The dwellings of the land of Midian trembled. 8Was Yahweh displeased with the rivers? Was Your anger against the rivers, or Your wrath against the sea, that You rode on Your horses, on Your chariots of salvation? 9You removed the sheath from Your bow, You called for many arrows. Selah. You split the earth with rivers. 10The mountains saw You, and were afraid. The storm of waters passed by, the deep sea roared and lifted up its hands on high. 11The sun and moon stood still in the sky at the light of Your arrows as they went, at the shining of Your glittering spear. 12You marched through the land in wrath. You threshed the nations in anger. 13You went forth for the salvation of Your people, for the salvation of Your anointed. You crushed the head of the land of wickedness. You stripped them head to foot. Selah. 14You pierced the heads of his warriors with their own spears. They came as a whirlwind to scatter me, gloating as if to devour the wretched in secret. 15You trampled the sea with your horses, churning mighty waters. 16I heard, and my body trembled. My lips quivered at the sound. Rottenness enters into my bones, and I tremble in my place, because I must wait quietly for the day of trouble, for the coming up of the people who invade us. 17For though the fig tree doesn’t flourish, nor fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive fails, the fields yield no food; the flocks are cut off from the fold, and there is no herd in the stalls: 18yet I will rejoice in Yahweh. I will be joyful in the God of my salvation! 19Yahweh, the Lord, is my strength. He makes my feet like deer’s feet, and enables me to go in high places. For the musical director, on my stringed instruments.