

HABAKKUK 1 vs 1

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Most commentators tell us that what Habakkuk saw was... the impending doom of the **House of Judah** -- said differently: Babylon was on their way... which is true; but it is only half of the story. We in the church can acknowledge the immediate words spoken to the prophet who embraced the LORD God; but we also know Habakkuk spoke to Paul's heart... who reminds the church in Galatia, Turkey; and the romans in Italy what their marching orders are until Messiah comes. This is what Habakkuk learned: when God speaks, when God answers prayer, He can paint a word picture to reach all His people in every generation. A closer look at these words spoken to the prophet... clearly reveals that this little book speaks to those living... when the time of the Gentiles is fulfilled; so, it should speak powerfully to us, today.



¹ The burden which Habakkuk the prophet did see.

Habakkuk wants to know: when will this lesson end? God seems to be indifferent.

² O LORD, how long will I cry / in Hebrew: matay ad...we see the root of the name: Matthew... and it is as if the LORD has designed the answer... by the question: in other words: How long? You'll find the answer in Matthew... who told us more about when Messiah came the first time in humility, as well as when Messiah comes the second time... in power and great glory.

O LORD, how long will I cry, and You will **not hear!**

I cry out to You of **violence, and You will **not** save!** / in Hebrew: **hamas**. Obviously, the times were troubling, the impending doom was perplexing. More than any other prophet, Habakkuk uses this word which should grab our attention: Jesus said, **as in the days of Noah, so also will be when the Son of man comes** -- **Matthew 24**. And when **we read about the days of Noah**, we don't read about the things Jesus mentioned, but we do discover this word first used in the Bible twice... describing the earth being filled with **violence** -- **Genesis 6**.

³ Why do You show me iniquity, and cause me to look on pure evil ??for thievery and **violence are before me: and strife and contention rise up.**

⁴ So the law is chilled dead, and justice never goes forth, because the wicked surround the righteous; and wrong justice proceeds / the prophet is living in a time of lawlessness... a time with no evidence of love for God; nor evidence of love for one another; the OT Torah is being ignored, and wise judgment is absent, nowhere to be found; perverted justice, inequity, inequality, unbalanced scales prevail.

Habakkuk wonders: is God doing anything? And the LORD God responds.

⁵ Behold / pay attention,

you among the nations, and regard, and wonder marvelously / the LORD cares about His people. Peter warned the faithful... not to be confused about what appears to be slow sailing with the Lord, as if He is late. Peter says: count what seems to be slowness... as opportunity that none should perish, but that all would turn to Him. The LORD knows: someday, this will be over; and when it is, the lines will be irreversibly drawn. The LORD wants Habakkuk and all who gather with him to know and not forget to embrace God's answer to: **how long?**

You among the nations... observe! And marvel! You will be completely amazed: for I will work a work in your days which you will **not believe, though it is told to you.**

6 For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans / whoever they are, the Lord calls them: **the worst of the nations** – **Ezekiel 7:24**; and adjective used only once in the Bible. God wants his prophet and the faithful few who gathered to know... those armies which were on the way... are **His doing**. For the apostate faithless of Judah... who turned from following the LORD... to go their own way... God would turn them over to a ruthless horde of invaders. Moses gave them fair warning before they entered the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He wrote: **because you did not serve the Lord with joyfulness and gladness of heart, for all the abundance of things**; therefore, you will serve your enemies which the Lord will send against you, until He has destroyed you – **Deut. 28:47**,

the worst of the Babylonians that are coming...

that bitter / fierce... and hasty / impetuous... nation, which will march throughout the earth, to possess dwelling places which are not theirs / and that's interesting. The Chaldeans are those Semitic tribes living in the coastlands of southern Babylon... **the territory of the tower of Babel; of rebellious Nimrod and his wife** who developed a political system and religious practice that was later embraced by **Rome**. Abraham, the father of faith was called to leave that city – Ur of the Chaldees. Perhaps, that is why Daniel warns us of the last world government... the 4th beast that has absorbed all... that was Babylon.

and, is it in their DNA... still today?

7 They terrorize... and are dreadful: their justice and authority originate of themselves / have you noticed in the international news now days... all those leaders of countries of the coalition... who read their speeches and parrot new norms of truth and justice... while every dictator, neocon, tyrant and autocrat eliminate terror... of course, in their national interest? The LORD God says,

Their faulty justice and favoring blind submission to their authority... proceed from themselves / **what they do is not from God.**

8 Their horses also are swifter than leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves and their horsemen will spread themselves, / their military might is worse than those wild beasts that are still hungry and on the prowl:

and their horsemen will come from afar; they will fly as the vulture eagle... that swoops to eat / these words suggest their military strength and strategy, their weapons of warfare are superior... they

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are able to pounce on their prey and work their havoc – can you imagine if they ever get access to modern weapons of DEW – directed energy weapons?

9 They all will come for **violence**: their faces horde as the east wind, they gather captives like the sand.

10 They scoff at kings, and rulers are a laughing matter to them: they deride every army fortress; for they pile up the earth, and take it.

11 Then will his mind change, and he will go too far, and offend:

“This power of his is his god.”

Habakkuk's faulty thinking; his honest confusion and doubts... show he disagrees with God's chosen plan.

12 Are You not from everlasting, O LORD my God, my Holy One??

We will not die.

O LORD, haven't You ordained them for justice; O mighty God, haven't You established them for correction??

13 You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on iniquity: Why do You look upon them the worst of the nations who deal treacherously, and You hold your tongue when the wicked devours those **more righteous** than he??

14 Why do You make men like the fish of the sea, or like the creeping things, that have no ruler over them??

From Habakkuk's vantage point, it looks like the enemy is winning.

15 They / the Chaldeans; the worst of the nations... take up all of them with the hook, they catch them in their net, and gather them in their dragnet: therefore, they rejoice and are glad.

16 So, they sacrifice to their net, and burn incense to their dragnet, because by them their portion is fat, and their food plenteous / so it's true, they have no awareness of God; they have no thanks for God; so they definitely are the worst; they must be lovers of self rather than lovers of God; for people that don't work and contribute to the general welfare, by their violent devices and deceptions and weapons they live luxuriously, and their food supply is plenteous.

17 So will they continually empty their net, and **not** spare to kill the nations??

And Habakkuk wants to know... is there a limit to their deeds?