

Habakkuk

BEREAN STANDARD BIBLE

Chapter 1

HABAKKUK'S FIRST COMPLAINT

¹This is the burden that Habakkuk the prophet received in a vision: ²How long, O LORD, must I call for help but You do not hear, or cry out to You, "Violence!" but You do not save? ³Why do You make me see iniquity? Why do You tolerate wrongdoing? Destruction and violence are before me. Strife is ongoing, and conflict abounds. ⁴Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.

THE LORD'S ANSWER

⁵"Look at the nations and observe—be utterly astounded! For I am doing a work in your days that you would never believe even if someone told you. ⁶For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans—that ruthless and impetuous nation which marches through the breadth of the earth to seize dwellings not their own. ⁷They are dreaded and feared; from themselves they derive justice and sovereignty. ⁸Their horses are swifter than leopards, fiercer than wolves of the night. Their horsemen charge ahead, and their cavalry comes from afar. They fly like a vulture, swooping down to devour. ⁹All of them come bent on violence; their hordes advance like the east wind; they gather prisoners like sand. ¹⁰They scoff at kings and make rulers an object of scorn. They laugh at every fortress and build up siege ramps to seize it. ¹¹Then they sweep by like the wind and pass through. They are guilty; their own strength is their god."

HABAKKUK'S SECOND COMPLAINT

¹²Are You not from everlasting, O LORD, my God, my Holy One? We will not die. O LORD, You have appointed them to execute judgment; O Rock, You have established them for correction. ¹³Your eyes are too pure to look upon evil, and You cannot tolerate wrongdoing. So why do You tolerate the faithless? Why are You silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves? ¹⁴You have made men like the fish of the sea, like creeping things that have no ruler. ¹⁵The foe pulls all of them up with a hook; he catches them in his dragnet, and gathers them in his fishing net; so he rejoices gladly. ¹⁶Therefore he sacrifices to his dragnet and burns incense to his fishing net, for by these things his portion is sumptuous and his food is rich.

¹⁷Will he, therefore, empty his net and continue to slay nations without mercy?

Chapter 2

THE LORD ANSWERS AGAIN

¹I will stand at my guard post and station myself on the ramparts. I will watch to see what He will say to me, and how I should answer when corrected. ²Then the LORD answered me: "Write down this vision and clearly inscribe it on tablets, so that a herald may run with it. ³For the vision awaits an appointed time; it testifies of the end and does not lie. Though it lingers, wait for it, since it will surely come and will not delay. ⁴Look at the proud one; his soul is not upright—but the righteous will live by faith— ⁵and wealth indeed betrays him. He is an arrogant man never at rest. He enlarges his appetite like Sheol, and like Death, he is never satisfied. He gathers all the nations to himself and collects all the peoples as his own.

WOE TO THE CHALDEANS

⁶Will not all of these take up a taunt against him, speaking with mockery and derision: 'Woe to him who amasses what is not his and makes himself rich with many loans! How long will this go on?' ⁷Will not your creditors suddenly arise and those who disturb you awaken? Then you will become their prey. ⁸Because you have plundered many nations, the remnant of the people will plunder you—because of your bloodshed against man and your violence against the land, the city, and all their dwellers. ⁹Woe to him who builds his house by unjust gain, to place his nest on high and escape the hand of disaster! ¹⁰You have plotted shame for your house by cutting off many peoples and forfeiting your life. ¹¹For the stones will cry out from the wall, and the rafters will echo it from the woodwork. ¹²Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed and establishes a town by iniquity! ¹³Is it not indeed from the LORD of Hosts that the labor of the people only feeds the fire, and the nations weary themselves in vain? ¹⁴For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁵Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbors, pouring it from the wineskin until they are drunk, in order to gaze at their nakedness! ¹⁶You will be filled with shame instead of glory. You too must drink and expose your uncir-

cumcision! The cup in the LORD's right hand will come around to you, and utter disgrace will cover your glory. ¹⁷For your violence against Lebanon will overwhelm you, and the destruction of animals will terrify you, because of your bloodshed against men and your violence against the land, the city, and all their dwellers. ¹⁸What use is an idol, that a craftsman should carve it—or an image, a teacher of lies? For its maker trusts in his own creation; he makes idols that cannot speak. ¹⁹Woe to him who says to wood, 'Awake!' or to silent stone, 'Arise!' Can it give guidance? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, yet there is no breath in it at all." ²⁰But the LORD is in His holy temple; let all the earth be silent before Him.

Chapter 3

HABAKKUK'S PRAYER

¹This is a prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, according to Shigionoth: ²O LORD, I have heard the report of You; I stand in awe, O LORD, of Your deeds. Revive them in these years; make them known in these years. In Your wrath, remember mercy! ³God came from Teman, and the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah His glory covered the heavens, and His praise filled the earth. ⁴His radiance was like the sunlight; rays flashed from His hand, where His power is hidden. ⁵Plague went before Him, and fever followed in His steps. ⁶He stood and measured the earth; He looked and startled the nations; the ancient mountains crumbled; the perpetual hills collapsed. His ways are everlasting. ⁷I saw the tents of Cushan in distress; the curtains of Midian were

trembling. ⁸Were You angry at the rivers, O LORD? Was Your wrath against the streams? Did You rage against the sea when You rode on Your horses, on Your chariots of salvation? ⁹You brandished Your bow; You called for many arrows. Selah You split the earth with rivers. ¹⁰The mountains saw You and quaked; torrents of water swept by. The deep roared with its voice and lifted its hands on high. ¹¹Sun and moon stood still in their places at the flash of Your flying arrows, at the brightness of Your shining spear. ¹²You marched across the earth with fury; You threshed the nations in wrath. ¹³You went forth for the salvation of Your people, to save Your anointed. You crushed the head of the house of the wicked and stripped him from head to toe. Selah ¹⁴With his own spear You pierced his head, when his warriors stormed out to scatter us, gloating as though ready to secretly devour the weak. ¹⁵You trampled the sea with Your horses, churning the great waters. ¹⁶I heard and trembled within; my lips quivered at the sound. Decay entered my bones; I trembled where I stood. Yet I must wait patiently for the day of distress to come upon the people who invade us.

HABAKKUK REJOICES

¹⁷Though the fig tree does not bud and no fruit is on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though the sheep are cut off from the fold and no cattle are in the stalls, ¹⁸yet I will exult in the LORD; I will rejoice in the God of my salvation! ¹⁹GOD the Lord is my strength; He makes my feet like those of a deer; He makes me walk upon the heights! For the choirmaster. With stringed instruments.