

The Book of Habakkuk

¹ The burden that Habacuc the prophet saw.
² How long, O Lord, shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear? shall I cry out to thee suffering violence, and thou wilt not save? ³ Why hast thou shewn me iniquity and grievance, to see rapine and injustice before me? and there is a judgment, but opposition is more powerful. ⁴ Therefore the law is torn in pieces, and judgment cometh not to the end: because the wicked prevaieth against the just, therefore wrong judgment goeth forth. ⁵ Behold ye among the nations, and see: wonder, and be astonished: for a work is done in your days, which no man will believe when it shall be told. ⁶ For behold, I will raise up the Chaldeans, a bitter and swift nation, marching upon the breadth of the earth, to possess the dwelling places that are not their own. ⁷ They are dreadful, and terrible: from themselves shall their judgment, and their burden proceed. ⁸ Their horses are lighter than leopards, and swifter than evening wolves; and their horsemen shall be spread abroad: for their horsemen shall come from afar, they shall fly as an eagle that maketh haste to eat. ⁹ They shall all come to the prey, their face is like a burning wind: and they shall gather together captives as the sand. ¹⁰ And their prince shall triumph over kings, and princes shall be his laughingstock: and he shall laugh at every strong hold, and shall cast

up a mount, and shall take it. ¹¹ Then shall his spirit be changed, and he shall pass, and fall: this is his strength of his god. ¹² Wast thou not from the beginning, O Lord my God, my holy one, and we shall not die? Lord, thou hast appointed him for judgment: and made him strong for correction. ¹³ Thy eyes are too pure to behold evil, and thou canst not look on iniquity. Why lookest thou upon them that do unjust things, and holdest thy peace when the wicked devoureth the man that is more just than himself? ¹⁴ And thou wilt make men as the fishes of the sea, and as the creeping things that have no ruler. ¹⁵ He lifted up all them with his hook, he drew them in his drag, and gathered them into his net: for this he will be glad and rejoyce. ¹⁶ Therefore will he offer victims to his drag, and he will sacrifice to his net: because through them his portion is made fat, and his meat dainty. ¹⁷ For this cause therefore he spreadeth his net, and will not spare continually to slay the nations.

2

¹ I will stand upon my watch, and fix my foot upon the tower: and I will watch, to see what will be said to me, and what I may answer to him that reproveth me. ² And the Lord answered me, and said: Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables: that he that readeth it may run over it. ³ For as yet the vision is far off, and it shall appear at the end, and shall not lie: if it make any delay, wait for it: for it shall surely come, and it shall not be slack. ⁴ Behold, he that is unbelieving, his

soul shall not be right in himself: but the just shall live in his faith. ⁵ And as wine deceiveth him that drinketh it: so shall the proud man be, and he shall not be honoured: who hath enlarged his desire like hell: and is himself like death, and he is never satisfied: but will gather together unto him all nations, and heap together unto him all people. ⁶ Shall not all these take up a parable against him, and a dark speech concerning him: and it shall be said: Woe to him that heapeth together that which is not his own? how long also doth he load himself with thick clay? ⁷ Shall they not rise up suddenly that shall bite thee: and they be stirred up that shall tear thee, and thou shalt be a spoil to them? ⁸ Because thou hast spoiled many nations, all that shall be left of the people shall spoil thee: because of men's blood, and for the iniquity of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein. ⁹ Woe to him that gathereth together an evil covetousness to his house, that his nest may be on high, and thinketh he may be delivered out of the hand of evil. ¹⁰ Thou hast devised confusion to thy house, thou hast cut off many people, and thy soul hath sinned. ¹¹ For the stone shall cry out of the wall: and the timber that is between the joints of the building, shall answer. ¹² Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, and prepareth a city by iniquity. ¹³ Are not these things from the Lord of hosts? for the people shall labour in a great fire: and the nations in vain, and they shall faint. ¹⁴ For the earth shall be filled, that men may know the glory of the Lord, as waters covering the sea. ¹⁵ Woe to him that giveth drink to his friend,

and presenteth his gall, and maketh him drunk, that he may behold his nakedness. ¹⁶ Thou art filled with shame instead of glory: drink thou also, and fall fast asleep: the cup of the right hand of the Lord shall compass thee, and shameful vomiting shall be on thy glory. ¹⁷ For the iniquity of Libanus shall cover thee, and the ravaging of beasts shall terrify them because of the blood of men, and the iniquity of the land, and of the city, and of all that dwell therein. ¹⁸ What doth the graven thing avail, because the maker thereof hath graven it, a molten, and a false image? because the forger thereof hath trusted in a thing of his own forging, to make dumb idols. ¹⁹ Woe to him that saith to wood: Awake: to the dumb stone: Arise: can it teach? Behold, it is laid over with gold, and silver, and there is no spirit in the bowels thereof. ²⁰ But the Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.

3

¹ A PRAYER OF HABACUC THE PROPHET FOR IGNORANCES. ² O Lord, I have heard thy hearing, and was afraid. O Lord, thy work, in the midst of the years bring it to life: In the midst of the years thou shalt make it known: when thou art angry, thou wilt remember mercy. ³ God will come from the south, and the holy one from mount Pharan: His glory covered the heavens, and the earth is full of his praise. ⁴ His brightness shall be as the light; horns are in his hands: There is his strength hid: ⁵ Death shall go before his face. And the devil shall go forth before his feet. ⁶ He stood and

measured the earth. He beheld, and melted the nations: and the ancient mountains were crushed to pieces. The hills of the world were bowed down by the journeys of his eternity. ⁷ I saw the tents of Ethiopia for their iniquity, the curtains of the land of Madian shall be troubled. ⁸ Wast thou angry, O Lord, with the rivers? or was thy wrath upon the rivers? or thy indignation in the sea? Who will ride upon thy horses: and thy chariots are salvation. ⁹ Thou wilt surely take up thy bow: according to the oaths which thou hast spoken to the tribes. Thou wilt divide the rivers of the earth. ¹⁰ The mountains saw thee, and were grieved: the great body of waters passed away. The deep put forth its voice: the deep lifted up its hands. ¹¹ The sun and the moon stood still in their habitation, in the light of thy arrows, they shall go in the brightness of thy glittering spear. ¹² In thy anger thou wilt tread the earth under foot: in thy wrath thou wilt astonish the nations. ¹³ Thou wentest forth for the salvation of thy people: for salvation with thy Christ. Thou struckest the head of the house of the wicked: thou hast laid bare his foundation even to the neck. ¹⁴ Thou hast cursed his sceptres, the head of his warriors, them that came out as a whirlwind to scatter me. Their joy was like that of him that devoureth the poor man in secret. ¹⁵ Thou madest a way in the sea for thy horses, in the mud of many waters. ¹⁶ I have heard and my bowels were troubled: my lips trembled at the voice. Let rottenness enter into my bones, and swarm under me. That I may rest in the day of tribulation: that I may go up to our people that are

girded. ¹⁷ For the fig tree shall not blossom: and there shall be no spring in the vines. The labour of the olive tree shall fail: and the fields shall yield no food: the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls. ¹⁸ But I will rejoice in the Lord: and I will joy in God my Jesus. ¹⁹ The Lord God is my strength: and he will make my feet like the feet of harts: and he the conqueror will lead me upon my high places singing psalms.

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