

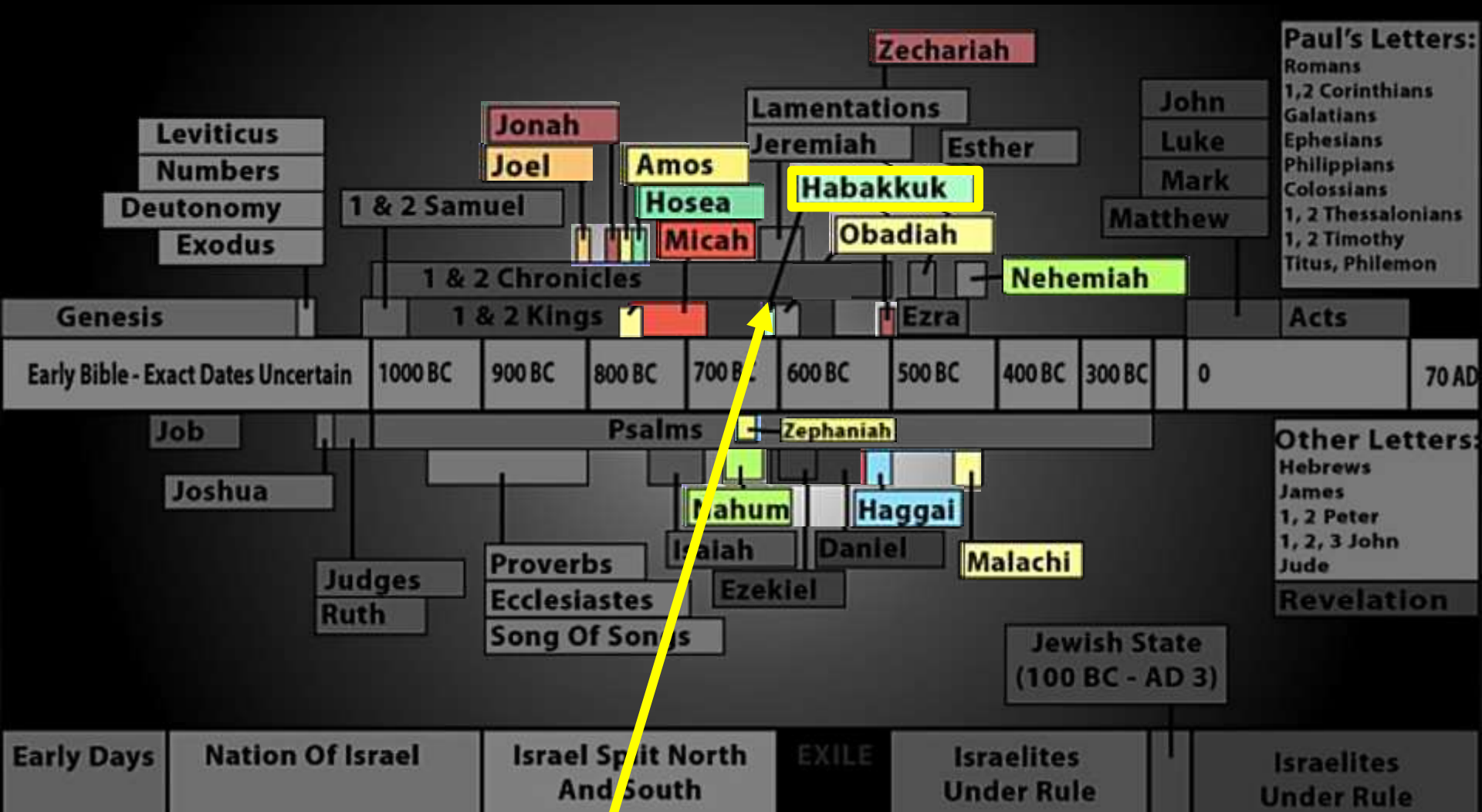


THE BOOK OF

Habakkuk

A verse by verse study

Ministry of the Minor Prophets



Habakkuk: c.612 - 606 B.C.

Habakkuk

- *“Habakkuk, the 8th of the Minor Prophets, occupies a special place. For he does not speak to men under God's commission as do the other prophets, but he speaks about his people and their enemies the Chaldeans to God” - Arend Remmers*
- He does not complain about God, but to God.

Habakkuk

- *“When Habakkuk only looked at his circumstances, he was bewildered and confused (1:3). When he waited for God and listened to his word, he rejoiced in song (3:18-19). The real purpose of religion is not to have the doubts removed, but to help us be sure of God's control of our lives and our world. – John Waddey*

Habakkuk

- Habakkuk is the epitome of the question '*why God do you allow...*'
- This book is Habakkuk's summary of his cry to God
- The conclusion?
- Simply because God is God!

*“God is God and I am not
I can only see a part of the picture He's painting
God is God and I am man
So I'll never understand it all
For only God is God”*

- Steven Curtis Chapman

Habakkuk

- Habakkuk's name means to 'wrestle'
 - Some transliterate as 'embracer'
- Most likely a Levite & musician – 3:19
- A prophet
 - only he Zechariah and Haggai give themselves this title
- His contemporaries were Jeremiah, Huldah and Zephaniah
 - *“Habakkuk reflects a familiarity with the writings of Amos, Hosea, Micah and Isaiah”.*
- Rabbinic tradition says he was the son of the Shunammite woman raised from the dead by Elisha
 - 2 Kings 4:17-37

Habakkuk

- He witnessed Josiah's great reform movement in Judah and its fading effect.
- He heard with great sorrow of the death of King Josiah at Megiddo at the hands of Pharaoh Necho.
- He heard the report of the fall of mighty Nineveh in 612 B.C.
 - For a short while, Pharaoh Necho controlled all the lands west of the Euphrates.
- Babylon, formerly a tributary of Assyria, was rapidly rising to prominence under Nabopolassar.
 - His son, Nebuchadnezzar, was a brilliant young general in his father's army.

Habakkuk - Overview

- Habakkuk's complaint 1:1-4
 - Why do the unrighteous prosper in Israel?
- God's response 1:5-11
 - The Babylonian's are coming to bring judgment!
 - But they themselves will not escape my wrath!
- Habakkuk's question 1:12-17
 - The Babylonians are worse than we are!
 - Is this just?
- God's response Ch 2
 - Israel's iniquity is great, so must be their judgment
- His anthem of praise Ch 3



THE BOOK OF

Habakkuk

Chapter 2

¹ I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reprov'd.

Habakkuk 2:1

- Habakkuk assumes the prophetic role of a watchman...
- Waiting for the LORD to speak to Him
- In times of uncertainty, waiting on the LORD is the best course of action

² And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

³ For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Habakkuk 2:2-3

- God's plan and purpose will be fulfilled in God's time, not ours.

4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

Habakkuk 2:4

- Nebuchadnezzar's soul was lifted up in pride
- In contrast, the godly will live by trusting God

⁵ Yea also, because he transgresseth by wine, he is a proud man, neither keepeth at home, who enlargeth his desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people:

Habakkuk 2:5

- Nebuchadnezzar was like a drunken man, caring for nothing but doing whatever he pleased
- Enough was not enough, he was never satisfied with more
- He had everything, but it amounted to nothing

5 Woes Against Babylon

- Beginning in Habakkuk 2:5, we have 5 “woe’s” pronounced upon Babylon



6 Shall not all these take up a parable against him,
and a taunting proverb against him, and say,
Woe to him that increaseth that which is not his! how
long?

and to him that ladeth himself with thick clay!

7 Shall they not rise up suddenly that shall bite thee,
and awake that shall vex thee, and thou shalt be for
booties unto them?

Habakkuk 2:6-7

- All Babylon's greatness (thick clay = buildings) would become the spoil of the Persians

8 Because thou hast spoiled many nations, all the remnant of the people shall spoil thee; because of men's blood, and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein.

Habakkuk 2:8

9 **Woe** to him that coveteth an evil covetousness to his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of evil!

10 Thou hast consulted shame to thy house by cutting off many people, and hast sinned against thy soul.

11 For the stone shall cry out of the wall, and the beam out of the timber shall answer it.

Habakkuk 2:9-11

- *“Nebuchadnezzar wished to aggrandize his family, and make his empire permanent: but both family and empire were soon cut off by the death of his son Belshazzar, and the consequent destruction of the Chaldean empire”. - Clarke*

12 **Woe** to him that buildeth a town with blood, and stablisheth a city by iniquity!

13 Behold, is it not of the Lord of hosts that the people shall labour in the very fire, and the people shall weary themselves for very vanity?

Habakkuk 2:12-13

- God had given nations (inc. Israel) into Neb's hands, but not to be mistreated for Babylon's vanity

14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Habakkuk 2:12-14

- The reason Nebuchadnezzar (Babylon) should have acted with humility is because one day the LORD will rule the whole earth!

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 2

Gold

Silver

Brass

Iron

Iron + Clay

Babylon

606 BC – 539 BC

Persia

539 BC – 332 BC

Greece

332 BC – 68 BC

Rome I

68 BC – ?

“Rome II”



44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Daniel 2:44

- This kingdom is the 'Kingdom *from* Heaven' spoken of Matthew's gospel 32x
- It is an earthly kingdom
- It is a sub-set of the 'kingdom of God'
- This is why we are to pray 'Thy Kingdom come!'

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Isaiah 2:1-4

15 **Woe** unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that puttest thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!

16 Thou art filled with shame for glory: drink thou also, and let thy foreskin be uncovered: the cup of the Lord's right hand shall be turned unto thee, and shameful spewing shall be on thy glory.

Habakkuk 2:15-16

- *“Against treachery and inhumanity. This woe is directed not so much against the overwhelming violence of the predator Babylon, but is against the false, treacherous, deceitful and cunning ways they used to seduce and destroy their neighbor nations”. - Coffman*

Revelation 17

¹ And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee **the judgment of the great whore** that sitteth upon many waters:

Revelation 17:1

Revelation 17

2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

Revelation 17:2

- Not only 'common' people, but *kings* and *rulers* of the earth have been intoxicated by her
- She has become irresistible to them and exerted her power over them

Revelation 17

- “drunk” = A state of Deception and Delusion

Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this [is] the time of the LORD'S vengeance; he will render unto her a recompence. Babylon hath been a golden cup in the LORD'S hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad.”

Jeremiah 51:7

17 For the violence of Lebanon shall cover thee, and the spoil of beasts, which made them afraid, because of men's blood, and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein.

18 What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols?

Habakkuk 2:17-18

19 **Woe** unto him that saith to the wood, Awake; to the dumb stone, Arise, it shall teach! Behold, it is laid over with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in the midst of it.

20 But the Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.

Habakkuk 2:19-20

- Idolatry is foolish and offensive to God!
- Psalm 135:18 tells us that you become like the god's you worship



THE BOOK OF

Habakkuk

Chapter 3

1 A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet upon Shigionoth.
2 O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.

Habakkuk 3:1-2

- Fortunately, His mercy endures forever!
 - See Psalm 118
 - it is Mercy חֶסֶד 'hesed' , not Love אָהַב 'ahab'

3 God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise.

4 And his brightness was as the light; he had horns coming out of his hand: and there was the hiding of his power.

Habakkuk 3:3-4

- *“God, who had formerly displayed such power in delivering the Israelites from Egypt might succour their posterity in a like wonderful manner.”*
- **“His glory covered the heavens** — His glory when he descended on Mount Sinai, and in the pillar of fire by night”.

5 Before him went the pestilence, and burning coals went forth at his feet.

6 He stood, and measured the earth: he beheld, and drove asunder the nations; and the everlasting mountains were scattered, the perpetual hills did bow: his ways are everlasting.

Habakkuk 3:5-6

- This refers to the conquest of Canaan
- Accompanied by cataclysmic events!
 - Joshua 10

7 I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction: and the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble.

8 Was the Lord displeased against the rivers? was thine anger against the rivers? was thy wrath against the sea, that thou didst ride upon thine horses and thy chariots of salvation?

Habakkuk 3:7-8

- Cushan = Cush, the cursed grandson of Noah
- His descendants inhabited Egypt and Canaan
- The Red Sea and Jordan are in view here
- God was not displeased with the 'rivers', He caused them to part

9 Thy bow was made quite naked, according to the oaths of the tribes, even thy word. Selah. Thou didst cleave the earth with rivers.

10 The mountains saw thee, and they trembled: the overflowing of the water passed by: the deep uttered his voice, and lifted up his hands on high.

Habakkuk 3:9-10

- The figure is that of taking a bow out of its carrying case, thus readying it for action.
- Possibly an allusion to the rivers of water that flowed from the Rock in the wilderness
- The Mt (Sinai) literally shook

11 The sun and moon stood still in their habitation: at the light of thine arrows they went, and at the shining of thy glittering spear.

12 Thou didst march through the land in indignation, thou didst thresh the heathen in anger.

13 Thou wentest forth for the salvation of thy people, even for salvation with thine anointed; thou woundedst the head out of the house of the wicked, by discovering the foundation unto the neck. Selah.

Habakkuk 3:11-13

- See Josh 10

14 Thou didst strike through with his staves the head of his villages: they came out as a whirlwind to scatter me: their rejoicing was as to devour the poor secretly.

15 Thou didst walk through the sea with thine horses, through the heap of great waters.

Habakkuk 3:14-15

- An allusion to Sisera?
 - Judges 4
- The nations came as a whirlwind to devour...
- But God...
- God is the God who rolled back the Red Sea & Jordan!

Charting Our Course

- Sometimes, to get the right perspective for the way ahead...
- ...we need to look back to see where we have come from.



16 When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble: when he cometh up unto the people, he will invade them with his troops.

17 Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls:

Habakkuk 3:16-17

- This is the future of the Nation of Israel from Habakkuk's time until today!

18 Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

19 The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places.

To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.

Habakkuk 3:18-19

- Though all of this befall me, I will trust in Him!

25 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.

Job 19:25-27

- God is faithful!



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