Habakkuk Complains to God

This is the message that was given to Habakkuk the prophet.*

1 Lord, I continue to ask for help. When will you listen to me? I cried to you about the violence. But you did nothing! 2 People are stealing things and hurting other people. People are arguing and fighting. Why do you make me look at these terrible things? 3 The law is weak and not fair to people. Evil people win their fights against good people. So, the law is no longer fair. Justice doesn’t win anymore!

God Answers Habakkuk

5 The Lord answered, “Look at the other nations! Watch them, and you will be amazed. I will do something in your lifetime that will amaze you. You will have to see it to believe it. You would not believe it if you were told about it. 6 I will make the Babylonian people a strong nation. Those people are mean and powerful fighters. They will march across the earth. They will take houses and cities that don’t belong to them. 7 The Babylonian people will scare the other people. The Babylonian people will do what they want to do and go where they want to go. 8 Their horses will be faster than leopards* and meaner than wolves* at sunset. Their horse soldiers will come from faraway places. They will attack their enemies quickly, like a hungry eagle swooping down from the sky. 9 The one thing they all want to do is fight. Their armies will march fast like the wind in the desert. And the Babylonian soldiers will take many, many prisoners—as many as the grains of sand.

10 “The Babylonian soldiers will laugh at the kings of other nations. Foreign rulers will be like jokes to them. The Babylonian soldiers will laugh at the cities with tall, strong walls. The soldiers will simply build dirt roads up to the top of the walls and easily defeat the cities. 11 Then they will leave like the wind and go on to fight against other places. The only thing those Babylonians will worship is their own strength.”

Habakkuk’s Second Complaint

12 Then Habakkuk said, “Lord, you are the Lord who lives forever! You are my holy God who never dies!* Lord, you created the Babylonian people to do what must be done. Our Rock,* you created them to punish the people of Judah. 13 Your eyes are too good to look at evil. You can’t watch people doing wrong. So how can you watch those evil people win? How can you watch bad people defeating good people?

14 “You have made the people like fish in the sea. They are like little sea-animals without a leader.

prophet A person called by God to be a special servant. God used dreams and visions to show them things to teach to the people.

leopard A large animal, like a lion.

wolves A wolf is a type of wild dog.

Lord, you are ... never dies Or, “Lord, you have been my holy God forever! Surely we will not die.”

Rock A name for God. It shows he is like a fortress or a strong place of safety.
15 The enemy catches all of them
with hooks and nets.
The enemy catches them in his net
and drags them in.
And the enemy is very happy
with what he caught.

16 His net helps him live like a rich man
and enjoy the best food.
So the enemy worships his net.
He makes sacrifices* and burns incense* to honor his net.

17 Will he continue to take riches with his net?
Will he continue destroying people
without showing mercy?

2 “I will stand like a guard and watch.
I will wait to see what the Lord
will say to me.
I will wait and learn how he answers
my questions.”

God Answers Habakkuk

2 The Lord answered me, “Write down what
I show you. Write clearly on a sign so people
can read it easily.* 3 This message is about a
special time in the future. This message is
about the end, and it will come true! [It may
seem like that time will never come.] But be
patient and wait for it. That time will come. It
will not be late. 4 This message can’t help
people that refuse to listen to it. But a good
person will believe this message. And the good
good person will live because of his faith.”

5 God said, “Wine can trick a person. In
the same way, a strong man’s pride can fool
him. But he will not find peace. He is like
death—he always wants more and more. And,
like death, he will never be satisfied. He will
continue defeating other nations. He will
continue to make those people his prisoners.
6 But soon enough, all of those people will
laugh at him. They will tell stories about his
defeat. They will laugh and say, ‘It’s too bad
that the man who took so many things will not
get to keep them! He made himself rich
collecting debts.’
7 “Strong man, you have taken money from
people. One day those people will wake up
and realize what is happening. And they will
stand against you. Then they will take things
from you. And you will be very afraid. 8 You
have stolen things from many nations. So
those people will take much from you. You
have killed many people. You have destroyed
lands and cities. You have killed all the people
there. 9 Yes, it will be very bad for the person
that becomes rich by doing wrong. That
person does those things to live in a safe
place. He thinks that he can stop other people
from stealing from him. [But bad things will
happen to him.]
10 You have made plans to destroy many
people. But those plans will bring shame to
your house. You have done bad things, and
you will lose your life. 11 The stones of the
walls will cry out against you. Even the
wooden rafters* in your own house will agree
that you are wrong.
12 It will be very bad for the leader that
does wrong and kills people to build a city.
13 The Lord All-Powerful has decided that a
fire will destroy everything that those people
worked to build. All their work will be for
nothing. 14 Then people everywhere will know
about the Glory of the Lord.* This news will
spread like water spreads out into the sea. 15 It
will be very bad for that person that becomes
angry and then makes other people suffer. In
anger, that person knocks other people to the
ground. And he treats those people like they
are naked and drunk.
16 But that person will know the Lord’s
anger. That anger will be like a cup of poison
in the Lord’s right hand. That person will taste
that anger and then he will fall to the ground
like a drunk person.
17 Evil ruler, you will drink from that cup. You
will get shame, not honor.

---

sacrifices A gift to God. Usually, it was a special animal that
was killed and burned on an altar.
incense Special dried tree sap. Burned to make a sweet-smelling
smoke, it was offered as a gift to God.
Write clearly ... easily Or, “Write clearly on tablets so the
person that reads it can run and tell other people the message.”
rafter Boards that support the roof.
Glory of the Lord One of the forms God used when he
appeared to people. It was like a bright shining light. See
Ex. 16:6; 40:34–38.
HABAKKUK 2:18–3:13

there. So you will be afraid because of the people that died and because of the bad things you did to that country. You will be afraid because of the things you did to those cities and to the people that lived in those cities.”

The Message About Idols

18That person’s false god will not help him. Why? Because it is only a statue that some man covered with metal. It is only a statue. So the person that made it can’t expect it to help. That statue can’t even speak! It will be very bad for the person that says to a wooden statue, “Get up!” It will be very bad for the person that says to a stone that can’t speak, “Wake up!” Those things can’t help him. That statue may be covered with gold and silver, but there is no life in that statue.

20But the Lord is different! The Lord is in his holy temple. So all the earth should be silent and show respect in front of the Lord.

Habakkuk’s Prayer

3

The Shiggayon prayer of Habakkuk the prophet.*

2 Lord, I have heard the news about you. Lord, I am amazed at the powerful things that you did in the past. Now I pray that you will do great things in our time. Please make those things happen in our own days. But in your excitement, remember to show mercy to us. *SELAH*

3 God is coming from Teman.* The Holy One is coming from Mount Paran.* *SELAH*

The glory of the Lord covers the heavens! His praise fills the earth!

4 Rays of light shine from his hand, a bright, shining light. There is such power hiding in that hand.

5 The sickness went before him. And the destroyer followed behind him.*

6 The Lord stood and judged the earth. He looked at the people of all the nations. And they shook with fear. For many years the mountains stood strong. But those mountains fell to pieces. The old, old hills fell down. God has always been like that!

7 I saw the cities of Cushan were in trouble. The houses of Midian trembled with fear.

8 Lord, were you angry at the rivers? Were you angry at the streams? Were you angry at the sea? Were you angry when you rode your horses and chariots to victory?

9 Even then you showed your rainbow. It was proof of your Agreement with the families of the earth. *SELAH*

And the dry land split the rivers.

10 The mountains saw you and shook. The water flowed off the land. The water from the sea made a loud noise as it lost its power over the land.

11 The sun and the moon lost their brightness. They stopped shining when they saw your bright flashes of lightning. That lightning was like spears and arrows shooting through the air.

12 In anger you walked on the earth and punished the nations.

13 You came to save your people. You came to lead your chosen king* to victory. You killed the leader in every evil family, from the least important person to the most important in the land.* *SELAH*

The sickness ... behind him This probably refers to the diseases and the Angel of Death God sent against the Egyptians when God freed Israel from slavery.

chosen king Literally, “anointed one.”

You killed ... in the land Literally, “You struck the head from the evil house. From the foundation to the neck they were laid bare.”

Shiggayon ... prophet Or, “The prayer of Habakkuk on the Shiggayon.” The exact meaning of “Shiggayon” is not known.

SELAH This word is for the singers or the musicians. It probably means that the singers should pause or that the music should be louder here.

Teman One of Edom’s important cities in the south, maybe its capital.

Mount Paran This is probably an important mountain west of the Gulf of Aqaba and north of Mount Sinai.
14 You used Moses’ walking stick to stop the enemy soldiers. Those soldiers came like a powerful storm to fight against us. They thought they could defeat us easily, like robbing a poor man in secret.

15 But you marched your horses through the deep water, stirring up the mud. My whole body shook when I heard the story. I whistled out loud! I felt weak deep down in my bones. I just stood there shaking. So I will wait patiently for the day of destruction when they come to attack the people.

17 Figs might not grow on the fig trees. Grapes might not grow on the vines. Olives might not grow on the olive trees. Food might not grow in the fields. There might not be any sheep in the pens. There might not be any cattle in the barns.

18 But I will still be glad in the Lord. I will rejoice in God my savior.

19 The Lord, my Master, gives me my strength. He helps me run fast like a deer. He leads me safely on the mountains.

To the music director.
On my stringed instruments.
License Agreement for Bible Texts

World Bible Translation Center
Last Updated: September 21, 2006

Copyright © 2006 by World Bible Translation Center
All rights reserved.

These Scriptures:
• Are copyrighted by World Bible Translation Center.
• Are not public domain.
• May not be altered or modified in any form.
• May not be sold or offered for sale in any form.
• May not be used for commercial purposes (including, but not limited to, use in advertising or Web banners used for the purpose of selling online add space).
• May be distributed without modification in electronic form for non-commercial use. However, they may not be hosted on any kind of server (including a Web or ftp server) without written permission. A copy of this license (without modification) must also be included.
• May be quoted for any purpose, up to 1,000 verses, without written permission. However, the extent of quotation must not comprise a complete book nor should it amount to more than 50% of the work in which it is quoted. A copyright notice must appear on the title or copyright page using this pattern: “Taken from the HOLY BIBLE: EASY-TO-READ VERSION™ © 2006 by World Bible Translation Center, Inc. and used by permission.” If the text quoted is from one of WBTC’s non-English versions, the printed title of the actual text quoted will be substituted for “HOLY BIBLE: EASY-TO-READ VERSION™.” The copyright notice must appear in English or be translated into another language. When quotations from WBTC’s text are used in non-sellable media, such as church bulletins, orders of service, posters, transparencies or similar media, a complete copyright notice is not required, but the initials of the version (such as “ERV” for the Easy-to-Read Version™ in English) must appear at the end of each quotation.

Any use of these Scriptures other than those listed above is prohibited. For additional rights and permission for usage, such as the use of WBTC’s text on a Web site, or for clarification of any of the above, please contact World Bible Translation Center in writing or by email at distribution@wbtc.com.

World Bible Translation Center
P.O. Box 820648
Fort Worth, Texas 76182, USA
Telephone: 1-817-595-1664
Toll-Free in US: 1-888-54-BIBLE
E-mail: info@wbtc.com

WBTC’s web site – World Bible Translation Center’s web site: http://www.wbtc.org

Order online – To order a copy of our texts online, go to: http://www.wbtc.org

Current license agreement – This license is subject to change without notice. The current license can be found at: http://www.wbtc.org/downloads/biblelicense.htm

Trouble viewing this file – If the text in this document does not display correctly, use Adobe Acrobat Reader 5.0 or higher. Download Adobe Acrobat Reader from: http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html

Viewing Chinese or Korean PDFs – To view the Chinese or Korean PDFs, it may be necessary to download the Chinese Simplified or Korean font pack from Adobe. Download the font packs from: http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/acrrasianfontpack.html