

## Habakkuk 1:1-11 **Habakkuk's Prayer – Yahweh's Answer**

### Habakkuk identified as the Prophet

1 The burden which the prophet Habakkuk saw.

### Habakkuk's prayer

2 O Yahweh (Lord), how long shall I cry, And You will not hear? Even cry out to You, "Violence!" And You will not save.

3 Why do You show me iniquity, And cause me to see trouble? For plundering and violence are before me; There is strife, and contention arises.

4 Therefore the law is powerless, And justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; Therefore perverse judgment proceeds.

### Yahweh's Reply

5 "Look among the nations and watch — Be utterly astounded! For I will work a work in your days Which you would not believe, though it were told you.

6 For indeed I am raising up the Chaldeans, A bitter and hasty nation Which marches through the breadth of the earth, To possess dwelling places that are not theirs.

7 They are terrible and dreadful; Their judgment and their dignity proceed from themselves.

8 Their horses also are swifter than leopards, And more fierce than evening wolves. Their chargers charge ahead; Their cavalry comes from afar; They fly as the eagle that hastens to eat.

9 "They all come for violence; Their faces are set like the east wind. They gather captives like sand.

10 They scoff at kings, And princes are scorned by them. They deride every stronghold, For they heap up earthen mounds and seize it.

11 Then his mind changes, and he transgresses; He commits offense, Ascribing this power to his god."

NKJV

### Facts Revealed:

#### Habakkuk identified as the Prophet [\[Habakkuk 1:1\]](#)

- ✧ The time of Habakkuk was a time of extreme wickedness of Judah before the Babylonians conquered Assyria.
- ✧ It was probably during the reign of Manasseh and Amon when the Assyrians were the dominate power and Yahweh was **beginning** to raise up the Babylonians (Chaldeans) who later conquered the Assyrians. [\[Habakkuk 1:6\]](#)
- ✧ The Assyrians carried the kingdom of Israel away captive in the sixth year of Hezekiah king of Judah. [\[2 Kings 18:9-12\]](#)
- ✧ The Assyrians came against Judah but Yahweh ended the siege and saved Jerusalem because of the prayer of Hezekiah. [\[2 Kings 18:11 through 19:37\]](#)
- ✧ The Assyrians took Manasseh the wicked son of Hezekiah in bronze to Babylon but Yahweh brought him back to Jerusalem because he humbled himself. [\[2 Chronicles 33:10-17\]](#)
- ✧ The Babylonians conquered Assyria under the leadership of Nabopolassar before Nebuchadnezzar came to power.

- ✧ Nebuchadnezzar became king of Babylon in the twenty-third year of Jeremiah which was the fourth year of Jehoiakim king of Judah. [\[Jeremiah 25:1\]](#)
- ✧ Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians 17 years later.

#### Habakkuk's Prayer [\[Habakkuk 1:2-4\]](#)

- ✧ O Yahweh (Lord), how long shall I cry, And You will not hear? Even cry out to You, "Violence!" And You will not save.  
Why do You show me iniquity, And cause me to see trouble? For plundering and violence are before me; There is strife, and contention arises.  
Therefore the law is powerless, And justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; Therefore perverse judgment proceeds. [\[Habakkuk 1:2-4\]](#)
- ✧ It is agonizing for a man of God to witness all the evil done in his country while his prayers for his nation seem to go unheard by Yahweh.
- ✧ Habakkuk witnessed the wickedness, violence, strife and contention going rampant through his nation as the powerful oppress the poor.
- ✧ The law seems to be powerless and justice is perverted.

#### Yahweh's Reply [\[Habakkuk 1:5-11\]](#)

- ✧ Yahweh promised to bring the Babylonians (Chaldeans) against Judah in the days of Habakkuk. [\[Habakkuk 1:5\]](#)
- ✧ Verses 6-10 describe the power, fierceness and effectiveness of the Babylonians.
- ✧ Then his mind changes, and he transgresses; He commits offense, Ascribing this power to his god." [\[Habakkuk 1:11\]](#)
- ✧ Human pride and arrogance is on parade as the victor claims his victory is his own by the power of his idolatrous god. [\[Habakkuk 1:11, Daniel 4:28-30\]](#)
- ✧ Nebuchadnezzar does not realize that power over Judah was given to him because Yahweh was using him to punish His own people for their sins and rejection of His laws. [\[Jeremiah 25:8-9\]](#)
- ✧ Yahweh punished the pride of Nebuchadnezzar until Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged that Yahweh is Almighty God who rules in the affairs of mankind. [\[Daniel 4:31-37\]](#)