

# Habakkuk

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## Habakkuk: Introduction

### Timeframe

Habakkuk begins the second chronological period of the Minor Prophets, which is composed of the prophecies revealed by Yahuwah during the time of the supremacy of the Babylonian Empire. Allusions to certain events within the prophecy suggest it was probably written during the reign of Yahoiaqim (608-598 B.C.). Yahuwah inspired Yirmeyahu and Daniel to record some of their prophecies during this same time.

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The name of this prophet means —to embrace. From the content of the prophecy, it is clear the primary emphasis is the need to embrace Yahuwah through faith. In conjunction with embracing Yahuwah is the need to embrace or hold fast the truth of Yahuwah's word—including the promises and sure word of prophecy contained therein.

### Content

A large portion of this prophecy concerns the empire of Babylon. Although certain events can be attributed to the Neo-Babylonian Empire of the seventh and sixth centuries B.C., the primary thrust pertains to Babylon the Great at the close of the age.

## Habakkuk: Chapter 1

**1:1 The burden which the prophet Habakkuk saw [REB: received in a vision].**

### The Burden

The revelations which Habakkuk received from Yahuwah in visions were in response to his questions.

**1:2 O YAHUWAH, how long shall I cry for help, and You will not listen? Or cry to You —Violence! [MOF: complain to Thee of wrongs] and You will not save. (NRS)**

### How Long?

Throughout time, the prophets and people of Yahuwah have desired to know —how long they must wait to see justice and salvation. Mosheh asked how long until Yahuwah would show pity to His servants and return (PSA 90:13). The disciples asked Amanuwal the same question:

*MAT 24:3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?*

### Violence!

Habakkuk witnessed the same problems among the Southern Kingdom that Hosea, Amos and Micah had previously testified were especially prevalent in the Northern Kingdom prior to its downfall. He was concerned with how long Yahuwah would allow these conditions to persist before taking action.

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**1:3 Why do You make me look at injustice? Why do You tolerate wrong [CJB: permit oppression]? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds. (NIV)**

**1:4 Therefore, the law is ignored and justice is never upheld. For the wicked surround the righteous; therefore, justice comes out perverted. (NAS)**

These questions were prompted by Habakkuk's concerns with Yahuwah's tolerance of moral wrongs. He could not understand how Yahuwah—the personification of good—could watch those who were being mistreated, without intervening to deliver them and to punish those who were committing wrongs. The prophet failed to comprehend how Yahuwah could seem to be indifferent to the manner in which His law was being disregarded.

In a similar fashion, Dawid observed how the wicked seemed to prosper while the righteous never seemed to do so (PSA 73:3-14). He learned that appearances can be deceiving, because what the wicked obtain is only temporary. The duty of the righteous is to be patient and to understand that Yahuwah knows all things, including the time to intervene.

*PSA 37:7-9 Rest in Yahuwah, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; do not fret—it only causes harm. For evildoers shall be cut off; but those who wait on Yahuwah, they shall inherit the earth.*

## Yahuwah's Response

In response to Habakkuk's concerns, Yahuwah now states what must precede the time when He will correct the injustices and non-enforcement of His law.

**1:5 Look among the nations and watch—be utterly astounded! For I will work a work [TNK: a work is being wrought] in your days which you would not believe, though it were told you.**

## Work a Work

Yahuwah told Habakkuk the answers to his questions were related to events taking place during his life. The work Yahuwah was overseeing at that time was to be a type of a work that He would oversee again at the close of the age when He would take the action Habakkuk desired.

**1:6 I am raising up the Chaldaeans [NIV: Babylonians], that savage and impetuous nation, who march far and wide over [NIV: sweep across] the earth to seize and occupy what is not theirs. (REB)**

Habakkuk lived during the time when Babylon established itself as the most powerful empire in the world. That empire would be used as a rod of correction for the sins perpetrated in the Southern Kingdom.

What happened during Habakkuk's day was only typical of what is to happen at the close of the age. Babylon the Great will be an empire composed of many nations and peoples, led by a man

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identified as the —king of the north by Daniel (DAN 11:40) and as —the beast by Yohanan (REV 19:20). The Beast will sweep like a whirlwind conquering much of the Middle East and North Africa (DAN 11:40-43) and establish his rule from Yerushalayim (DAN 11:45). Amanuwal warned of this in the Olivet Prophecy:

*MAT 24:15 Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation, ' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in Ha'Kadosh place (whoever reads, let him understand),*

*LUK 21:20 But when you see Yerushalayim surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near.*

Yahuwah will use the Beast to correct the descendants of the Southern Kingdom:

*ISA 10:5-6, 12 Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger and the staff in whose hand is My indignation. I will send him against an unrighteous [KJV: hypocritical] nation, and against the people of My wrath I will give him charge, to seize the spoil, to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets...Therefore it shall come to pass, when Yahuwah has performed all His work on Mount Zion and on Yerushalayim, that He will say, —I will punish the fruit of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his haughty looks.*

### **1:7 They are terrible and dreadful;...**

These same terms are used by Daniel in describing the fourth beast that comes out of the raging sea (DAN 7:7). That beast symbolized the Roman Empire; the final resurrection or appearance of that empire is not identified as Roman, but rather as Babylon the Great.

**1:7 (cont.) ...their judgment and their dignity proceed from themselves** [KJV margin: from them shall proceed the judgment of these, and the captivity of these; NIV: they are a law to themselves and promote their own honor].

The NKJ and NIV emphasize that Babylon has established itself as the source of law, totally ignoring Yahuwah as the Lawgiver. This arrogant attribute was also noted in:

*DAN 7:25 He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.*

The primary law that will be asserted by the leadership of Babylon the Great will be the —mark of the beast (REV 13:16-17). The marginal rendering in the KJV directly connects Babylon to the punishment and exile of the descendants of the Southern Kingdom.

**1:8 Their horses are swifter than leopards, fiercer than wolves at dusk. Their cavalry gallops headlong; their horsemen come from afar. They fly like a vulture** [NKJ: the eagle] **swooping to devour;** (NIV)

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**1:9 They all come for violence; their faces are set like the east wind [CJB: set eagerly forward]. They gather captives like sand.**

Clearly, these verses can describe a major military offensive, but could also be descriptive of great political success.

**1:10 They deride kings and scoff at rulers. They laugh at all fortified cities; they build earthen ramps [REB: siege-works] and capture them. (NIV)**

There will be nothing that can stand in the way of the rise of Babylon the Great because of the plans that Yahuwah has in store for it.

**1:11 Then shall his mind change, and he shall pass over, and offend, imputing this his power unto his mighty one. (KJV)**

This indicates a change in the state of mind of the leader of Babylon. This fits with several other prophecies.

*ISA 10:12 Therefore it shall come to pass, when Yahuwah has performed all His work on Mount Zion and on Yerushalayim, that He will say, —I will punish the fruit of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his haughty looks.*

According to other prophecies, the arrogance of the Beast includes imputing divinity to himself.

*EZE 28:2 Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, Thus says Yahuwah YAHUWAH: —Because your heart is lifted up, and you say, I am a mighty one, I sit in the seat of Yahuwah, in the midst of the seas, ‘yet you are a man, and not a mighty one, though you set your heart as the heart of a mighty one:*

*2TH 2:4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called Yahuwah or that is worshiped, so that he sits as Yahuwah in the temple of Yahuwah, showing himself that he is Yahuwah.*

Like Judas, the leader of Babylon the Great will give himself over to the devil—the most cunning beast in all of creation (GEN 3:1).

The arrogant state of mind of the Beast was typified in the experience of another king of Babylon: Nebuchadnezzar. Because of his pride, Yahuwah either suppressed or removed his — spirit of man, which imparts intellect (1CO 2:11), and temporarily replaced it with the spirit of an animal, so that he became like a beast (DAN 4:16).

## Interruption

At this point, Habakkuk interrupts Yahuwah’s response to his question of —how long injustice would be allowed to continue. Habakkuk was troubled over the procedure that Yahuwah was intending to use to punish His people. So, the prophet now asks for clarification.

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**1:12 Are You not from of old, O YAHUWAH my mighty one, my Kadosh One? You shall not die. O YAHUWAH, You have marked them for judgment [NAS: appointed them to judge]; and you, O Rock, have established them for punishment [NAS: to correct]. (NRS)**

## Alteration

This verse contains the second of the five major alterations in the scroll of the Twelve Prophets. This change was deliberately made by ancient Hebrew scribes, so as not to impute mortality to Yahuwah. The NRS has correctly chosen to accept the original text: —You [Yahuwah] shall not die..., rather than —We shall not die..., as in KJV, NKJ, NIV and other versions.

## Habakkuk's Question

Habakkuk understood that Yahuwah was eternal and therefore has always been in control of His creation. He also understood that Yahuwah guided events and raised up Babylon to be used to correct His wayward nation.

**1:13 Your eyes are too pure to look on [NAS: approve] evil; You cannot tolerate wrong. Why then do You tolerate the treacherous? Why are You silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves? (NIV)**

Since Yahuwah hates evil, Habakkuk was in a quandary: how could Yahuwah use a people who were responsible for even more sin than the Southern Kingdom to punish the Southern Kingdom?

**1:14 You have made mankind like the fish of the sea, like creeping things that have no ruler. (TNK)**

Humanity at large, when considered in relation to the rise of conquering empires, especially Babylon, has fared no differently from aquatic or terrestrial creatures.

**1:15 They [NRS: The enemy; NAS: The Chaldeans] take up all of them with a hook, they catch them in their net, and gather them in their dragnet. Therefore they rejoice and are glad.**

The Babylonians treated people as animals to be corralled and caught, used and slaughtered—not as human beings made in the image of Yahuwah.

**1:16 Therefore he sacrifices to his net and burns incense to his dragnet, for by his net he lives in luxury and enjoys the choicest food. (NIV)**

Babylon trusted in its own might and ability to take whatever it wanted from others.

**1:17 Is he to keep on emptying his net, destroying nations without mercy? (NIV)**

Habakkuk wondered how long Babylon would be allowed to continue once it had succeeded in carrying out the —work that Yahuwah has willed it to do.

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## Habakkuk: Chapter 2

**2:1 I will stand on my watch, take up my station at the post [KJV: upon the tower], and wait to see what He will say to me, what He will reply to my complaint. (TNK)**

Habakkuk alludes to the role he had as a watchman—as one who was responsible for warning his people of coming catastrophic events.

**2:2 Then Yahuwah answered me and said, —Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets, that the one who reads it may run [NIV: so that a herald may run with it; TNK: so that it can be read easily]. (NAS)**

### Yahuwah's Response

Until now, Habakkuk had been under the impression that what Yahuwah had been showing him concerned his time. Yahuwah now indicates that the vision He was in the process of revealing to Habakkuk needed to be preserved on a durable substance that would last beyond his lifetime. It was also important that the inscription be clear for those who would read what was written. The Hebrew word translated —run also means —to hurry, indicating that what is revealed in the vision would compel the reader to act quickly.

**2:3 For the vision is meant for its appointed time; it speaks of the end, and it does not lie. It may take a while, but wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay. (CJB)**

Yahuwah establishes the fact that the vision concerns the time of the end and stresses that an appointed time cannot be changed. This appointed time was referred to by Amanuwal in the Olivet Prophecy.

*MAT 24:36 But of that day and hour no one knows, no, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.*

The —day and hour is the appointed time; it is the exact time when the armies of the Beast surround Yerushalayim (LUK 21:20). It is vitally important for Yahuwah's people to be patient—to know and accept that Yahuwah has already established when certain events will occur, and then wait for Him to direct them. Amanuwal makes this point in the conclusion of a parable in:

*LUK 18:7-8 And shall Yahuwah not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?*

### Vision Continued

The vision, which was interrupted by Habakkuk's concerns in 1:12, is resumed in the next verse. In order to understand correctly what follows, we must keep in mind that everything that is revealed in the vision is for the time of the end.

**2:4 Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him [CJB: he is inwardly not upright];...**

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Yahuwah continues to relate critical information concerning the man who will become the Beast. Yahuwah revealed in 1:11 that his mind would change, and he will become filled with pride (ISA 10:12), completely under control of the devil, the king of the proud (JOB 41:34). The magnitude of his pride will far surpass that of any human mind, for he will eventually attempt to stop Ha'Mashyach from establishing Yahuwah's Kingdom over the earth.

*DAN 8:25 Through his cunning he shall cause deceit to prosper under his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity [TNK: taking them unawares]. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without human hand.*

**2:4 (cont.) ...but the just shall live by his faith.**

This is a parenthetical insertion. It is a statement of fact for all who embrace Yahuwah by holding fast to the truth and yielding their lives to Him. It can also be understood as an encouragement to all who live when the Beast comes on the scene at the close of the age.

**2:5 indeed, wine betrays him** [NKJ: because he transgresses by wine];... (NIV)

It is certain that the Beast will have a problem with the wine that is in the cup of the harlot in

*REV 17:2. Eventually, the ten rulers who give the Beast their power will realize that the harlot has deceived them and will turn on her (REV 17:16).*

**2:5 (cont.) ...he is arrogant and never at rest. Because he is as greedy as the grave and like death is never satisfied, he gathers to himself all the nations and takes captive all the peoples.** (NIV)

Being under the control of the devil, he will be manipulated to attempt to take physical control of all the earth. To succeed in doing so would substantiate his claim to divinity, since the Bible states that Ha'Mashyach will rule all nations.

*ISA 10:13-14 For he says: —By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom, for I am prudent; also I have removed the boundaries of the people, and have robbed their treasuries; so I have put down the inhabitants like a valiant man. My hand has found like a nest the riches of the people, and as one gathers eggs that are left, I have gathered all the earth; and there was no one who moved his wing, nor opened his mouth with even a peep.*

**2:6 Will not all of them taunt him with ridicule and scorn, saying, Woe to him who piles up stolen goods and makes himself wealthy by extortion! How long must this go on?'** (NIV)

### The First Woe

From here through the end of this chapter, Habakkuk announces five woes against Babylon the Great. These woes give insight into the Beast and what he will do.

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The most outrageous extortion ever committed will be the decree directly connected to the Beast.

*REV 13:16-17 And he causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*

**2:7 Shall not your victims suddenly arise, and men awake to make you shake? —then you shall be their prey. (MOF)**

Those who awake and arise to make the Beast shake will be the saints of Yahuwah, who will rise in the First Resurrection.

*REV 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Amanuwal and for the word of Yahuwah, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Ha'Mashyach for a thousand years.*

Once the dead in Ha'Mashyach awaken and the saints who are still alive rise and join Ha'Mashyach in the air, they will accompany Him to the Marriage Supper, then return with Him on white horses (REV 19:14) to execute judgment and take possession of the dominion of the earth.

PSA 149:5-9 Let the saints be joyful in glory; let them sing aloud on their beds. Let the high praises of Yahuwah be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand, to execute vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the peoples; to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute on them the written judgments this honor have all His saints. Praise Yahuwah!

*DAN 7:18, 27 But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever...Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High.*

His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.

**2:8 Because you have plundered many nations, all the remnant of the people [TNK: all surviving peoples] shall plunder you, because of men's blood and the violence of the land and the city, and of all who dwell in it.**

While the Beast is attempting to bring all nations under his dominion, resistance will grow, necessitating a show of force, which will be the event depicted as following the Fifth Trumpet (REV 9:1-11). Those attacked will respond, after the Sixth Trumpet is blown, by initiating a global nuclear war (REV 9:13-21). This will be followed by an invasion of the land of Yisra'el, where the Beast will be residing (DAN 11:45). It will be during the engagement of the forces of the Beast with the armies of the kings of the east (REV 16:12) moving southward from the



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Euphrates River that Ha'Mashyach, accompanied by the saints, will destroy them all (REV 19:19-21).

**2:9-10 Ah, you who have acquired gains to the detriment of your own house, who have destroyed many peoples in order to set your nest on high to escape disaster! You have plotted shame for your own house, and guilt for yourself;** (TNK)

**2:9-10 Woe to him who builds his realm by unjust gain to set his nest on high, to escape the clutches of ruin! You have plotted the ruin of many peoples, shaming your own house and forfeiting your life** [NAS: sinning against yourself]. (NIV)

## The Second Woe

The second woe announced by Habakkuk is due to the Beast's boundless covetousness and attempted deification of himself. He will imagine himself immortal, but will be put to death by the hand of Ha'Mashyach (DAN 8:25).

**2:11 For the stone will cry out from the wall, and the beam from the timbers will answer it.**

The very material from which Babylon the Great will be constructed testifies to the lack of permanence of the empire created by the Beast. This is clearly revealed in:

DAN 2:41-44 Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay. In the time of those kings, the Aluhym of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. (NIV)

**2:12 Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed and founds a town with violence** [REB: on injustice]. (NAS)

## The Third Woe

With the third woe, the prophet's focus is on the method used by the Beast to create his empire; it was based on rejecting Yahuwah's moral code. Yahuwah states that the system of Babylon, which the Beast will promote, is accountable for all human bloodshed.

*REV 18:24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.*

**2:13 Behold, is it not of Yahuwah of hosts that the peoples labor to feed the fire** [CJB: toil for what will be burned up], **and nations weary themselves in vain** [JPS: for vanity]?

Yahuwah has allowed man to go his own way, creating his own governments for 6,000 years. As with all of them, everything that the Beast will seek to establish in his empire will be contrary to

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the will and purpose of Yahuwah. Therefore, it will be necessary, prior to the beginning of His kingdom on earth, for Yahuwah to destroy totally all that is associated with the Babylonian system.

**2:14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Yahuwah, as the waters cover the sea.**

The rule of the Beast will be enforced by pain and fear—conditions which result from refusing to obey the moral code of Yahuwah's law. Yahuwah's rule will be based on His law, which harms no one (ROM 13:10).

*ISA 11:9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My kadosh mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Yahuwah as the waters cover the sea.*

**2:15 Woe to him who makes his neighbors drain the goblet of his fury [NIV: gives drink to his neighbors], and makes them drunk, to gloat on their disgrace! (MOF)**

### The Fourth Woe

This fourth woe proclaimed against the Beast centers on his promotion of the wine of the harlot, the religion of the false church. Moffatt's translation puts more emphasis on the aggressive nature of the actions taken by the Beast.

*REV 17:1-2 ...the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.*

All who submit to the false teachings will ultimately be humiliated when they discover they have been duped (REV 17:16).

**2:16 You will be filled with shame instead of glory. Now it is your turn! Drink and be exposed! The cup from Yahuwah's right hand is coming around to [CJB: will be turned against] you, and disgrace will cover your glory. (NIV)**

As one of the final events of the age, the Beast will be required to drink the cup of Yahuwah's wrath.

*REV 16:19 ...And great Babylon was remembered before Yahuwah, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.*

*JER 25:15-17, 26 For thus says Yahuwah Alyhym of Yisra'el to me: —Take this wine cup of fury from My hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send you, to drink it. And they will drink and stagger and go mad because of the sword that I will send among them. Then I took the cup from Yahuwah's hand, and made all the nations drink, to whom Yahuwah had sent me:...all the kings of the north, far and near, one with another; and all the kingdoms of the world which are on the face of the earth. Also the king of Sheshach shall drink after them.*

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When the Beast is finally required to drink the dregs from Yahuwah's cup of fury, his claims of divinity and immortality will be proven false, and he will be further disgraced in the eyes of all, when he is cast into a lake of fire.

*REV 19:20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

**2:17 For the lawlessness [NKJ: violence] against Lebanon shall cover you, the destruction of beasts shall overwhelm you—for crimes against men [NAS: because of human bloodshed] and wrongs against lands, against cities and all their inhabitants. (TNK)**

This verse gives further explanation of how the cup from Yahuwah's right hand comes on the Beast. Lebanon is part of the territory between the Euphrates and the Yizrael (Jezreel) Valley. The movement of the armies of the kings of the east through Lebanon will leave devastation behind (JOE 2:2-3). That same violence will come against the forces of the Beast stationed in the land of Yisra'el, as part of the punishment contained in Yahuwah's cup of wrath for all of the injustices committed against the nations by Babylon.

**2:18 What use is an idol once its maker has shaped it—a cast image, a teacher of lies? For its maker trusts in what has been made, though the product is only an idol that cannot speak! (NRS)**

**2:19 Woe to him who says to wood, Awake!' to silent stone, Arise! It shall teach!' Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and [TNK: but] in it there is no breath at all.**

### The Fifth Woe

The fifth and final woe directed against the Beast pertains to the deceptiveness of idolatry, which plays a major role in the creation of his empire. The false prophet will be instrumental in this area.

*REV 13:13-15 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.*

That image will come to life in the form of a final revival of Ha'Kadosh Roman Empire, which will be declared to be the Kingdom of Yahuwah; the Beast will claim to be Ha'Mashyach who rules over it.

In reality, the governmental structure of the Beast will be a satanic counterfeit of Yahuwah's government. Those who mastermind its rise to power will be destroyed along with it.

**2:20 But Yahuwah is in His kadosh temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him.**

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## Keep Silence Before Yahuwah

After Habakkuk's overview of the Beast, his empire and the wickedness he will perpetrate, we come to a pause in the vision—which can also be understood as a pause in the chronological progression of the unfolding of prophecy at the close of the age. It is possible to connect this verse to at least two time periods when the earth metaphorically waits in anticipation for Yahuwah's next intervention:

### 1. The opening of the Seventh Seal:

*REV 8:1-2 When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before Yahuwah, and to them were given seven trumpets.*

### 2. The time immediately following the Seventh Trumpet and First Resurrection, just prior to the beginning of the calamities associated with the Bowl Plagues that complete Yahuwah's wrath:

*REV 15:5-8 After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands. Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of Yahuwah who lives forever and ever. The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of Yahuwah and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.*

## **Habakkuk: Chapter 3**

**3:1 A prayer of the prophet Habakkuk. In the mode of Shigionoth** [KJV margin: according to variable songs; MOF: in dithyrambic measure]. (TNK)

### A Prayer

This —prayer of the prophet was actually a psalm of lamentation and exaltation. As indicated by the last part of the final verse of this chapter, which takes the form of a footnote, the material that follows this first verse was apparently set to music in the original Hebrew. The meaning of —Shigionoth is debated, but the alternatives given here suggest strong, erratic emotions, which fit with the content of this psalm.

**3:2 O YAHUWAH, I have heard Your speech and was afraid; O YAHUWAH, revive Your work in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy.**

Habakkuk's lamentation is based on further material Yahuwah revealed to him in the vision for the appointed time at the end of the age. He connects the work of raising up Babylon in his day (1:5) to what happens at the close and asks Yahuwah to help His people discern what it means when it happens. He also appeals to Yahuwah to be merciful to His people during the outpouring of His wrath, which is to occur during the Trumpet Plagues (REV 6:17).

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### **3:3 Yahuwah is coming from Teman, Ha’Kadosh One from Mount Paran. Selah.... (TNK)**

Teman and Paran are both in the far south, the area of Kadesh-Barnea or Petra. This verse not only seems to indicate that Ha’Mashyach will approach Yerushalayim from the southeast, prior to engaging the armies assembled in the Yizrael (Jezreel) Valley, but also draws attention to the blessing that Mosheh pronounced on Yisra’el before he died; the blessing began with Yahuwah’s fulfillment of His promise to bring His people to the Promised Land.

*DEU 33:2 And he said: —Yahuwah came from Sinai, and dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, and He came with ten thousands of saints; from His right hand came a fiery law for them.*

When closely examined, the blessing that Mosheh pronounced is actually seen to be a prophecy about the tribes of Yisra’el and the time of their permanent establishment in the land of Yisra’el after the return of Ha’Mashyach (DEU 33:26-29). This is also the timeframe of Habakkuk’s psalm, as is clearly deduced from the content that follows.

The musical term —Selah indicates either a pause or an increasing volume that reaches a crescendo. It is used three times in this chapter and seventy times in Psalms.

### **3:3 (cont.) ...His majesty covers the skies, His splendor [NKJ: praise] fills the earth. (TNK)**

All verbs from this verse through verse 15 should be understood in the future sense. The earth will not be filled with His splendor or praise until after His wrath has been unleashed against the nations. It will only be after Yahuwah’s Kingdom has been established that the nations will praise Him (ISA 2:2-3). However, His splendor will temporarily fill the earth at the Seventh Trumpet:

*MAT 24:30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

**3:4 His brightness [NAS: radiance; NIV: splendor] was like the light [NRS: sun; NIV: sunrise]; He had rays flashing from His hand, and there His power was hidden.**

This describes the appearance of the glorified Savior.

*REV 1:16 ...His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. (NIV)*

**3:5 Before Him went the pestilence, and burning coals [NRS: plague; JPS: fiery bolts] went forth at His feet [NRS: followed close behind]. (KJV)**

The pestilence included all destructive activity that preceded His appearance all of the destruction from the Trumpet Plagues. The burning coals or plague referred to the destruction

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that coincided with His appearance probably the slaughter of the armies in the Yizrael (Jezreel) Valley.

*ZEC 14:12 And this shall be the plague with which Yahuwah will strike all the people who fought against Yerushalayim: their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths.*

**3:6 He stood, and shook [NKJ: measured; NAS: surveyed] the earth; He looked, and made the nations tremble. The ancient mountains crumbled and the age-old hills collapsed... (NIV)**

This is the outcome of the great earthquake of the Seventh Bowl plague:

*REV 16:17-18 Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done! And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.*

This is the same earthquake described by Yahshayahu:

*ISA 24:18-20 ...the foundations of the earth are shaken. The earth is violently broken, the earth is split open, the earth is shaken exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall totter like a hut; its transgression shall be heavy upon it, and it will fall, and not rise again.*

**3:6 (cont.) ...His ways are eternal [NKJ: everlasting]. (NIV)**

Yahuwah's method of dealing with sin is always the same He does not change (MAL 3:6): He will exact the penalty of destruction. The universal flood in Noah's day, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah in Lot's day, the destruction during the Day of Yahuwah at the close of this age, the destruction of Gog and Magog after the millennial reign of Ha'Mashyach, and the destruction of Satan and the demons prior to the Second Resurrection are examples of the method Yahuwah uses to remove all who are intent on fulfilling their sinful desires.

**3:7 I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction; the curtains of the land of Midian trembled.**

Cushan was located north of Yisra'el; Midian was south of Yisra'el. Even nomadic peoples whose dwellings normally survive earthquakes with minimal damage will experience the ferocity of this greatest of all earthquakes.

**3:8 Yahuwah are You angry with the streams? Is Your rage against the rivers, Your wrath against the sea, that Your steeds are mounted and You ride Your chariots to victory [TNK: Your victorious chariot]? (REB)**

It seems that the vision given to Habakkuk was less detailed than what Yohanan saw when on the Isle of Patmos. Habakkuk was not privileged to see everything that Yohanan saw regarding the final plagues of Revelation. Whereas Yohanan witnessed each plague chronologically from

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its inception, Habakkuk saw only the aftermath of some of them. There is no indication that he was made aware of the seven Bowl Plagues in the same way as Yohanan was.

In this verse, Habakkuk indicates that he witnesses the Second and Third Bowl Plagues.

REV 16:3-6 Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died. Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters saying: —You are righteous, O Yahuwah, the One who is and who was and who is to be, because You have judged these things. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due.

**3:9 Your bow was made quite ready [NIV: uncovered]; oaths were sworn over Your arrows. Selah...**

Yahuwah will unleash the end time plagues one after another like arrows from a bow in order to inflict punishment on the nations for their sins. Rather than repenting, their response will be to curse Yahuwah for the plagues He brings against them.

*REV 16:9, 11, 21 And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of Yahuwah who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory...And they blasphemed the Yahuwah of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds...And men blasphemed Yahuwah because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.*

**3:9 (cont.) ...You divided [CJB: split] the earth with rivers.**

**3:10 The mountains see You and tremble; a torrent of water streams by; the deep thunders forth, as it raises enormous waves. (CJB)**

These events are also associated with the great earthquake of the Seventh Bowl Plague:

*REV 16:18, 20 Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake...Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found. (NIV)*

The earthquake will be so savage that massive tsunamis of gelatinous saltwater, due to the Second Bowl Plague, will sweep across the earth's oceans and seas, burying islands and low-lying coastlands. In describing this event, Yahshayahu indicates that torrential rains will also be unleashed upon the earth at that time.

*ISA 24:18 ...the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth are shaken.*

Great chasms will open up in the landmasses because of the vicious shaking of the earthquake; then, torrents of rain will flow like rivers into them.

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The unleashing of the tumultuous outpouring of rain might occur at the end of the period for which the two witnesses will shut heaven so that rain will be withheld:

REV 11:6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy...

### **3:11 The sun and moon stood still in their habitation;...**

The only other time that the sun and moon became stationary occurred during the time of Yahuwshuwa when Yahuwah fought the enemies of Yisra'el.

JOS 10:12-14 Then Yahuwshuwa spoke to Yahuwah in the day when Yahuwah delivered up the Amorites before the children of Yisra'el, and he said in the sight of Yisra'el: —Sun, stand still over Gibeon; and Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon. So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the people had revenge upon their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day. And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that Yahuwah heeded the voice of a man; for Yahuwah fought for Yisra'el.

Zekaryah connects this very event to the way in which Yahuwah will end the Seventh Bowl Plague.

*ZEC 14:3 Then shall Yahuwah go forth, and fight against those nations, as when He fought in the day of battle. (KJV)*

Yahuwah fought by casting projectiles from heaven onto the adversaries.

*JOS 10:10-11 So Yahuwah routed them before Yisra'el, killed them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, chased them along the road that goes to Beth Horon, and struck them down as far as Azekah and Makkedah. And it happened, as they fled before Yisra'el and were on the descent of Beth Horon, that Yahuwah cast down large hailstones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died from the hailstones than those whom the children of Yisra'el killed with the sword.*

This is the same method that Yahuwah will use against all nations just before He deals directly with the armies assembled in the land of Yisra'el.

*REV 16:21 From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. And they cursed Yahuwah on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible. (NIV)*

### **3:11 (cont.) ...at the light of Your arrows they went [NAS: went away], at the shining of Your glittering spear.**

Your arrows refers to rays of light emitted by His glory. After the final Bowl Plague runs its course, Amanuwal will come out of heaven, appearing in such intense brilliance that the light of the moon and sun will be swallowed up and they will vanish from view. The spear in the hand of Ha'Mashyach indicates that more death is to follow.



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## **3:12 You marched through the land in indignation;...**

This summarizes the outpouring of Yahuwah's wrath through the Trumpet Plagues, which will be delegated to angels to administer (REV 14:14-16).

## **3:12 (cont.) ...You trampled the nations in anger.**

This focuses on what Ha'Mashyach will do once He comes down from heaven with the resurrected saints. In many places the action He takes against the nations is likened to the crushing of grapes in a winepress, and signifies great bloodshed.

*JOE 3:2, 11-14 I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Yahoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Yisra'el, whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land...Assemble and come, all you nations, and gather together all around. Cause Your mighty ones to go down there, O YAHUWAH. Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Yahoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; for the winepress is full, the vats overflow for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of Yahuwah is near in the valley of decision.*

*REV 14:17-20 Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe. So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of Yahuwah. And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs [NAS: for a distance of two hundred miles].*

This incomprehensible amount of shed blood will be the direct result of the plague that Yahuwah uses to strike the armies gathered in the Yizrael (Jezreel) Valley.

*ZEC 14:12 And this shall be the plague with which Yahuwah will strike all the people who fought against Yerushalayim: their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths.*

## **3:13 You went forth for the salvation of [TNK: to deliver] Your people, for salvation with Your Anointed....**

Since the First Resurrection came earlier in the sequence of the events related, this event must refer to the physical deliverance of the descendants of Yisra'el. Ha'Mashyach will have intervened to deliver the Yahuwdim in captivity in Yerushalayim by causing the Anti-Ha'Mashyach to leave the city (DAN 11:44). The tribe of Yahuwdah will be the first of the tribes of Yisra'el to experience deliverance.

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*ZEC 12:7-9 Yahuwah will save the tents of Yahuwdah first, so that the glory of the house of Dawid and the glory of the inhabitants of Yerushalayim shall not become greater than that of Yahuwdah. In that day Yahuwah will defend the inhabitants of Yerushalayim; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like Dawid, and the house of Dawid shall be like Yahuwah, like the Angel of Yahuwah before them. It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Yerushalayim.*

### **3:13 (cont.) ...You struck the head from the house of the wicked, by laying bare from foundation to neck. Selah**

The house of the wicked refers to Babylon the Great; its physical head or leadership will be the Beast and the False Prophet. Prior to engaging the armies in the Valley of Yizrael (Jezreel), Amanuwal will destroy the men in those roles until the Second Resurrection.

*REV 19:20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

This head also represents the seventh and final head of the Beast with seven heads and ten horns (REV 13:1-2). Its removal ends any further perpetuation of kingdoms associated with Babylon.

### **3:14 You pierced with their own arrows the head of his warriors,... (NRS)**

When Yahuwah unleashes His plague that causes the flesh, eyes and tongues of men to dissolve spontaneously while they stand on their feet, the armies assembled to fight Ha'Mashyach will become frantic at what is happening to them and will strike down each other in blind hysteria, until all are dead.

*ZEC 14:13 It shall come to pass in that day that a great panic from Yahuwah will be among them. Everyone will seize the hand of his neighbor, and raise his hand against his neighbor's hand;*

### **3:14 (cont.) ...who came like a whirlwind to scatter us [NKJ: me],... (NRS)**

Habakkuk reflects on what will have happened three and a half years earlier, and speaks for the Yahuwdim who will be in Yahuwd (Yahuwd) at the time of the end when the king of the north (the Beast) invades Ha'Kadosh land.

*DAN 11:40-41 At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through. He shall also enter the Glorious Land.*

*ZEC 14:2 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Yerushalayim; the city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.*

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*LUK 21:20-24 But when you see Yerushalayim surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. Then let those in Yahuwd flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Yerushalayim will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.*

**3:14 (cont.) ...whose delight is to crush me suddenly, to devour a poor man in an ambush. (TNK)**

From what Habakkuk had observed, those who would plan to invade and conquer Yerushalayim would greatly anticipate doing so.

*PSA 83:1-4 Do not keep silent, O Yahuwah! Do not hold Your peace, And do not be still, O Yahuwah! For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; and those who hate You have lifted up their head. They have taken crafty counsel against Your people...They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Yisra'el may be remembered no more.*

The action they take is compared to robbers who ambush a poor man. Since a poor man has nothing of value, their ambush would be totally unexpected. Amanuwal stressed this would be the case.

*LUK 17:26-31 And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back.*

Amanuwal connected verse 31 to the arrival of the armies that would surround Yerushalayim as described in the Olivet Prophecy (MAT 24:15-18). This means that the Yisraelites will not be expecting the invasion that comes.

**3:15 You tread down the sea with Your horses, churning up the mighty waters. (CJB)**

After briefly reflecting on events from three and a half years earlier, Habakkuk returns to the sequence of events at the close of the Bowl Plagues, when Amanuwal leads the immortal saints in conquering the nations, which are symbolized by the sea (DAN 7:2) and waters (REV 17:15).

*REV 19:11, 14-15 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war...And the armies in*

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*heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty Yahuwah.*

*JUD 14-15 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, Behold, Yahuwah comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are unrighteous among them of all their unrighteous deeds which they have committed in an unrighteous way, and of all the harsh things which unrighteous sinners have spoken against Him.*

**3:16 When I heard, my whole body trembled, my lips shook at the sound; weakness overcame my limbs, my legs gave way beneath me, but I wait calmly for the day of trouble, when it comes upon our assailants [NAS: for the people to arise who will invade us]. (CJB)**

The Hebrew translated heard can also mean discerned, considered, or understood; the Hebrew for sound can also be rendered proclamation. Habakkuk's reaction to what he saw and understood from the proclamation contained within the vision he was given was physical weakness. Yet, he was careful to obey Yahuwah's instruction in 2:3 about the vision: For the vision is meant for its appointed time; it speaks of the end, and it does not lie. It may take a while, but wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay.

Habakkuk, whose name means to embrace, represents the elect, who embrace Yahuwah, His Law and His promises at the close of the age. The elect are careful to follow Amanuwal's directions during that time of suspicion, doubt, skepticism, betrayal and hatred.

MAT 24:10-13 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

Like Habakkuk, the elect wait and watch for the events that indicate when the day of trouble will begin.

*MAT 24:15-16, 21 Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation, 'spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in Ha'Kadosh place (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Yahuwd flee to the mountains...For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

**3:17 Though the fig tree does not bud and no yield is on the vine, though the olive crop has failed and the fields produce no grain, though sheep have vanished from the fold and no cattle are in the pen, (TNK)**

Habakkuk mentions one more disturbing scene from the vision given to him: the outcome of the plagues of Revelation. The vegetation of the earth is gone; the animals are destroyed. This condition was also seen by Yirmeyahu.

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*JER 4:23-26 I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty; and at the heavens, and their light was gone. I looked at the mountains, and they were quaking; all the hills were swaying. I looked, and there were no people; every bird in the sky had flown away. I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert; all its towns lay in ruins before Yahuwah, before His fierce anger. (NIV)*

**3:18 Yet will I rejoice in Yahuwah, exult in the mighty one who delivers me** [NKJ: of my salvation]. (TNK)

Although the normal human reaction would be to mourn over the destruction he had witnessed, Habakkuk was in a mood of celebration. What he had witnessed in vision was how Yahuwah will punish the nations for ignoring His law and committing injustices. Yahuwah's actions will prepare the nations to begin obeying His law and desiring universal justice.

This verse also reflects the positive mood of the elect of Yahuwah who are rewarded for waiting patiently, trusting the instruction they have been given by Yahuwah from His Word.

*REV 3:10 Since you have kept My command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth. (NIV)*

**3:19 The Sovereign Yahuwah is my strength; He makes my feet like the feet of a deer, He enables me to go on the heights....** (NIV)

Deer are known for their ability to spring high off the ground; this symbolizes the elect who are still alive and are changed at the Seventh Trumpet, who then rise in the air to meet Ha'Mashyach (1TH 4:17). When joined with the preceding verse, this passage establishes that the elect who wait on the sure word of Yahuwah will not only receive protection through the time of trouble they will also participate in the First Resurrection and accompany Ha'Mashyach to the Marriage Supper.

*PSA 15:1-3 Yahuwah who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your kadosh hill? He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart; he who does not backbite with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbor, nor does he take up a reproach against his friend;*

**3:19 (cont.) ...For the director of music. On my stringed instruments.** (NIV)

This psalm of lamentation and exaltation was originally written to be accompanied by music.

### Conclusion

This prophetic work was initiated by Habakkuk's question of 'How long' until Yahuwah would rectify the injustices in the world. The answer he received has been preserved for all of Yahuwah's saints through the ages: be patient and wait for the appointed time, no matter how long it may be in coming. The important thing is to leave the timing to Yahuwah, trust Him, embrace His righteousness and live by the faith of Amanuwal Ha'Mashyach.