

## CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

### NAHUM, MICAH, ZEPHANIAH, AND HABAKKUK

In 720 B. C., Nahum became a prophet. His ministry included predicting the downfall of Nineveh, the capital of Assyria. Assyria had oppressed the Jews for years.

With the death of Tiglath-pileser III, king of Assyria, Hoshea, who had been placed on the throne of Israel, decided to become independent of Assyria. Instead Hoshea was made a prisoner, making the capital of Israel doomed for destruction. The inhabitants were taken to Assyria. Only the poor, who could cause no trouble in the future, were left behind. They soon began to intermarry with the Assyrians who came to Israel to live, resulting in the hybrid stock later known as the Samaritans.

Nahum starts off by talking about the greatness of God.

**NAHUM 1:2-15**

**2 GOD IS JEALOUS, AND THE LORD REVENGETH; THE LORD REVENGETH, AND IS FURIOUS; THE LORD WILL TAKE VENGEANCE ON HIS ADVERSARIES, AND HE RESERVETH WRATH FOR HIS ENEMIES.**

**3 THE LORD IS SLOW TO ANGER, AND GREAT IN POWER, AND WILL NOT AT ALL ACQUIT THE WICKED: THE LORD HATH HIS WAY IN THE WHIRLWIND AND IN THE STORM, AND THE CLOUDS ARE THE DUST OF HIS FEET.**

**4 HE REBUKETH THE SEA, AND MAKETH IT DRY, AND DRIETH UP ALL THE RIVERS: BASHAN LANGUISHETH, AND CARMEL, AND THE FLOWER OF LEBANON LANGUISHETH.**

**5 THE MOUNTAINS SHAKE AT HIM, AND THE HILLS MELT, AND THE EARTH IS BURNED AT HIS PRESENCE, YEA, THE WORLD, AND ALL THAT DWELL THEREIN.**

**6 WHO CAN STAND BEFORE HIS INDIGNATION? AND WHO CAN ABIDE IN THE FIERCENESS OF HIS ANGER? HIS FURY IS Poured OUT LIKE FIRE, AND THE ROCKS ARE THROWN DOWN BY HIM.**

**7 THE LORD IS GOOD, A STRONG HOLD IN THE DAY OF TROUBLE; AND HE KNOWETH THEM THAT TRUST IN HIM.**

**8 BUT WITH AN OVERRUNNING FLOOD HE WILL MAKE AN UTTER END OF THE PLACE THEREOF, AND DARKNESS SHALL PURSUE HIS ENEMIES.**

**9 WHAT DO YE IMAGINE AGAINST THE LORD? HE WILL MAKE AN UTTER END: AFFLICTION SHALL NOT RISE UP THE SECOND TIME.**

**10 FOR WHILE THEY BE FOLDEN TOGETHER AS THORNS, AND WHILE THEY ARE DRUNKEN AS DRUNKARDS, THEY SHALL BE DEVoured AS STUBBLE FULLY DRY.**

**11 THERE IS ONE COME OUT OF THEE, THAT IMAGINETH EVIL AGAINST THE LORD, A WICKED COUNSELLER.**

**12 THUS SAITH THE LORD: THOUGH THEY BE QUIET, AND LIKEWISE MANY, YET THUS SHALL THEY BE CUT DOWN, WHEN HE SHALL PASS THROUGH. THOUGH I HAVE AFFLICTED THEE, I WILL AFFLICT THEE NO MORE.**

**13 FOR NOW WILL I BREAK HIS YOKE FROM OFF THEE, AND WILL BURST THY BONDS IN SUNDER.**

**14 AND THE LORD HATH GIVEN A COMMANDMENT CONCERNING THEE, THAT NO MORE OF THY NAME BE SOWN: OUT OF THE HOUSE OF THY GODS WILL I CUT OFF THE GRAVEN IMAGE AND THE MOLTEN IMAGE: I WILL MAKE THY GRAVE; FOR THOU ART VILE.**

**15 BEHOLD UPON THE MOUNTAINS THE FEET OF HIM THAT BRINGETH GOOD TIDINGS, THAT PUBLISHETH PEACE! O JUDAH, KEEP THY SOLEMN FEASTS, PERFORM THY VOWS: FOR THE WICKED SHALL NO MORE PASS THROUGH THEE; HE IS UTTERLY CUT OFF.**

Nahum was saying that God had spared Nineveh once because of its repentance, but God would now destroy it. God will not allow His chosen people to be troubled for very long. The indication here is the Messiah is the Avenger of God's elect.

Let's read verse 15 again.

**NAHUM 1:15**

**15 BEHOLD UPON THE MOUNTAINS THE FEET OF HIM THAT BRINGETH GOOD TIDINGS, THAT PUBLISHETH PEACE! O JUDAH, KEEP THY SOLEMN FEASTS, PERFORM THY VOWS: FOR THE WICKED SHALL NO MORE PASS THROUGH THEE; HE IS UTTERLY CUT OFF.**

Nahum was saying that victory over the enemy was just ahead. This was good news to the Jews because the Assyrian policy had been one of terror. Their own pictures show captives staked to the ground and being skinned alive. No wonder Nahum exulted at the overthrow of the proud, rich, cruel empire of Assyria.

## **MICAH**

In 700 B. C., Micah started his work as a prophet. Micah means "Who is like Jehovah." He was very outspoken concerning the wrong-doings of the political and religious leaders of his day. His message was very much against the Assyrians who had now taken 40 cities of Judah. Hezekiah was forced to pay tribute to the Assyrians.

**2 KINGS 18:13-16**

**13 NOW IN THE FOURTEENTH YEAR OF KING HEZEKIAH DID SENNACHERIB KING OF ASSYRIA COME UP AGAINST ALL THE FENCED CITIES OF JUDAH, AND TOOK THEM.**

**14 AND HEZEKIAH KING OF JUDAH SENT TO THE KING OF ASSYRIA TO LACHISH, SAYING, I HAVE OFFENDED; RETURN FROM ME: THAT WHICH THOU PUTTEST ON ME WILL I BEAR. AND THE KING OF ASSYRIA APPOINTED UNTO HEZEKIAH KING OF JUDAH THREE HUNDRED TALENTS OF SILVER AND THIRTY TALENTS OF GOLD.**

**15 AND HEZEKIAH GAVE HIM ALL THE SILVER THAT WAS FOUND IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD, AND IN THE TREASURES OF THE KING'S HOUSE.**

**16 AT THAT TIME DID HEZEKIAH CUT OFF THE GOLD FROM THE DOORS OF THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD, AND FROM THE PILLARS WHICH HEZEKIAH KING OF JUDAH HAD OVERLAID, AND GAVE IT TO THE KING OF ASSYRIA.**

The future captivity by Babylon was also predicted by Micah. Micah's message caused King Hezekiah to pray for forgiveness. Micah announced future salvation and blessing for the people of Judah.

**MICAH 4:1-4**

**1 BUT IN THE LAST DAYS IT SHALL COME TO PASS, THAT THE MOUNTAIN OF THE HOUSE OF THE LORD SHALL BE ESTABLISHED IN THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAINS, AND IT SHALL BE EXALTED ABOVE THE HILLS; AND PEOPLE SHALL FLOW UNTO IT.**

**2 AND MANY NATIONS SHALL COME, AND SAY, COME, AND LET US GO UP TO THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD, AND TO THE HOUSE OF THE GOD OF JACOB; AND HE WILL TEACH US OF HIS WAYS, AND WE WILL WALK IN HIS PATHS: FOR THE LAW SHALL GO FORTH OF ZION, AND THE WORD OF THE LORD FROM JERUSALEM.**

**3 AND HE SHALL JUDGE AMONG MANY PEOPLE, AND REBUKE STRONG NATIONS AFAR OFF; AND THEY SHALL BEAT THEIR SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES, AND THEIR SPEARS INTO PRUNINGHOOKS: NATION SHALL NOT LIFT UP A SWORD AGAINST NATION, NEITHER SHALL THEY LEARN WAR ANY MORE.**

**4 BUT THEY SHALL SIT EVERY MAN UNDER HIS VINE AND UNDER HIS FIG TREE; AND NONE SHALL MAKE THEM AFRAID: FOR THE MOUTH OF THE LORD OF HOSTS HATH SPOKEN IT.**

Micah describes the captivity.

**MICAH 4:10**

**10 BE IN PAIN, AND LABOUR TO BRING FORTH, O DAUGHTER OF ZION, LIKE A WOMAN IN TRAVAIL: FOR NOW SHALT THOU GO FORTH OUT OF THE CITY, AND THOU SHALT DWELL IN THE FIELD, AND THOU SHALT GO EVEN TO BABYLON; THERE SHALT THOU BE DELIVERED; THERE THE LORD SHALL REDEEM THEE FROM THE HAND OF THINE ENEMIES.**

Captivity was not the end. With God, there is always hope and assurance.

**MIC 5:2**

**2 BUT THOU, BETHLEHEM EPHRATAH, THOUGH THOU BE LITTLE AMONG THE THOUSANDS OF JUDAH, YET OUT OF THEE SHALL HE COME FORTH UNTO ME THAT IS TO BE RULER IN ISRAEL; WHOSE GOINGS FORTH HAVE BEEN FROM OF OLD, FROM EVERLASTING.**

This One who was to be born in Bethlehem would become Israel's shepherd.

**MICAH 7:18-20**

**18 WHO IS A GOD LIKE UNTO THEE, THAT PARDONETH INIQUITY, AND PASSETH BY THE TRANSGRESSION OF THE REMNANT OF HIS HERITAGE? HE RETAINETH NOT HIS ANGER FOR EVER, BECAUSE HE DELIGHTETH IN MERCY.**

**19 HE WILL TURN AGAIN, HE WILL HAVE COMPASSION UPON US; HE WILL SUBDUE OUR INIQUITIES; AND THOU WILT CAST ALL THEIR SINS INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA.**

**20 THOU WILT PERFORM THE TRUTH TO JACOB, AND THE MERCY TO ABRAHAM, WHICH THOU HAST SWORN UNTO OUR FATHERS FROM THE DAYS OF OLD.**

The Messiah will perform this when He sets claim to the throne of David. His reign will cover the earth.

**ZEPHANIAH**

Zephaniah's ministry was probably aided by his social position. He was probably related to the kings of the day. He certainly was fearless in his writing. It can be said the he depicts the Messiah as the Restorer of the Remnant.

**ZEPHANIAH 1:1-3:13**

**1 THE WORD OF THE LORD WHICH CAME UNTO ZEPHANIAH THE SON OF CUSHI, THE SON OF GEDALIAH, THE SON OF AMARIAH, THE SON OF HIZKIAH, IN THE DAYS OF JOSIAH THE SON OF AMON, KING OF JUDAH.**

**2 I WILL UTTERLY CONSUME ALL THINGS FROM OFF THE LAND, SAITH THE LORD.**

**3 I WILL CONSUME MAN AND BEAST; I WILL CONSUME THE FOWLS OF THE HEAVEN, AND THE FISHES OF THE SEA, AND THE STUMBLINGBLOCKS WITH THE WICKED; AND I WILL CUT OFF MAN FROM OFF THE LAND, SAITH THE LORD.**

**4 I WILL ALSO STRETCH OUT MINE HAND UPON JUDAH, AND UPON ALL THE INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM; AND I WILL CUT OFF THE REMNANT OF BAAL FROM THIS PLACE, AND THE NAME OF THE CHEMARIMS WITH THE PRIESTS;**

**5 AND THEM THAT WORSHIP THE HOST OF HEAVEN UPON THE HOUSETOPS; AND THEM THAT WORSHIP AND THAT SWEAR BY THE LORD, AND THAT SWEAR BY MALCHAM;**

**6 AND THEM THAT ARE TURNED BACK FROM THE LORD; AND THOSE THAT HAVE NOT SOUGHT THE LORD, NOR INQUIRED FOR HIM.**

**7 HOLD THY PEACE AT THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD GOD: FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD IS AT HAND: FOR THE LORD HATH PREPARED A SACRIFICE, HE HATH BID HIS GUESTS.**

**8 AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THE DAY OF THE LORD'S SACRIFICE, THAT I WILL PUNISH THE PRINCES, AND THE KING'S CHILDREN, AND ALL SUCH AS ARE CLOTHED WITH STRANGE APPAREL.**

**9 IN THE SAME DAY ALSO WILL I PUNISH ALL THOSE THAT LEAP ON THE THRESHOLD, WHICH FILL THEIR MASTERS' HOUSES WITH VIOLENCE AND DECEIT.**

**10 AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THAT DAY, SAITH THE LORD, THAT THERE SHALL BE THE NOISE OF A CRY FROM THE FISH GATE, AND AN HOWLING FROM THE SECOND, AND A GREAT CRASHING FROM THE HILLS.**

**11 HOWL, YE INHABITANTS OF MAKTESH, FOR ALL THE MERCHANT PEOPLE ARE CUT DOWN; ALL THEY THAT BEAR SILVER ARE CUT OFF.**

**12 AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS AT THAT TIME, THAT I WILL SEARCH JERUSALEM WITH CANDLES, AND PUNISH THE MEN THAT ARE SETTLED ON THEIR LEES: THAT SAY IN THEIR HEART, THE LORD WILL NOT DO GOOD, NEITHER WILL HE DO EVIL.**

**13 THEREFORE THEIR GOODS SHALL BECOME A BOOTY, AND THEIR HOUSES A DESOLATION: THEY SHALL ALSO BUILD HOUSES, BUT NOT INHABIT THEM; AND THEY SHALL PLANT VINEYARDS, BUT NOT DRINK THE WINE THEREOF.**

**14 THE GREAT DAY OF THE LORD IS NEAR, IT IS NEAR, AND HASTETH GREATLY, EVEN THE VOICE OF THE DAY OF THE LORD: THE MIGHTY MAN SHALL CRY THERE BITTERLY.**

**15 THAT DAY IS A DAY OF WRATH, A DAY OF TROUBLE AND DISTRESS, A DAY OF WASTENESS AND DESOLATION, A DAY OF DARKNESS AND GLOOMINESS, A DAY OF CLOUDS AND THICK DARKNESS,**

**16 A DAY OF THE TRUMPET AND ALARM AGAINST THE FENCED CITIES, AND AGAINST THE HIGH TOWERS.**

**17 AND I WILL BRING DISTRESS UPON MEN, THAT THEY SHALL WALK LIKE BLIND MEN, BECAUSE THEY HAVE SINNED AGAINST THE LORD: AND THEIR BLOOD SHALL BE Poured OUT AS DUST, AND THEIR FLESH AS THE DUNG.**

**18 NEITHER THEIR SILVER NOR THEIR GOLD SHALL BE ABLE TO DELIVER THEM IN THE DAY OF THE LORD'S WRATH; BUT THE WHOLE LAND SHALL BE DEVoured BY THE FIRE OF HIS JEALOUSY: FOR HE SHALL MAKE EVEN A SPEEDY RIDDANCE OF ALL THEM THAT DWELL IN THE LAND.**

#### **ZEPHANIAH 2:1-15**

**1 GATHER YOURSELVES TOGETHER, YEA, GATHER TOGETHER, O NATION NOT DESIRED;**

**2 BEFORE THE DECREE BRING FORTH, BEFORE THE DAY PASS AS THE CHAFF, BEFORE THE FIERCE ANGER OF THE LORD COME UPON YOU, BEFORE THE DAY OF THE LORD'S ANGER COME UPON YOU.**

**3 SEEK YE THE LORD, ALL YE MEEK OF THE EARTH, WHICH HAVE WROUGHT HIS JUDGMENT; SEEK RIGHTEOUSNESS, SEEK MEEKNESS: IT MAY BE YE SHALL BE HID IN THE DAY OF THE LORD'S ANGER.**

**4 FOR GAZA SHALL BE FORSAKEN, AND ASHKELON A DESOLATION: THEY SHALL DRIVE OUT ASHDOD AT THE NOON DAY, AND EKRON SHALL BE ROOTED UP.**

**5 WOE UNTO THE INHABITANTS OF THE SEA COAST, THE NATION OF THE CHERETHITES! THE WORD OF THE LORD IS AGAINST YOU; O CANAAN, THE**

**LAND OF THE PHILISTINES, I WILL EVEN DESTROY THEE, THAT THERE SHALL BE NO INHABITANT.**

**6 AND THE SEA COAST SHALL BE DWELLINGS AND COTTAGES FOR SHEPHERDS, AND FOLDS FOR FLOCKS.**

**7 AND THE COAST SHALL BE FOR THE REMNANT OF THE HOUSE OF JUDAH; THEY SHALL FEED THEREUPON: IN THE HOUSES OF ASHKELON SHALL THEY LIE DOWN IN THE EVENING: FOR THE LORD THEIR GOD SHALL VISIT THEM, AND TURN AWAY THEIR CAPTIVITY.**

**8 I HAVE HEARD THE REPROACH OF MOAB, AND THE REVILINGS OF THE CHILDREN OF AMMON, WHEREBY THEY HAVE REPROACHED MY PEOPLE, AND MAGNIFIED THEMSELVES AGAINST THEIR BORDER.**

**9 THEREFORE AS I LIVE, SAITH THE LORD OF HOSTS, THE GOD OF ISRAEL, SURELY MOAB SHALL BE AS SODOM, AND THE CHILDREN OF AMMON AS GOMORRAH, EVEN THE BREEDING OF NETTLES, AND SALTPITS, AND A PERPETUAL DESOLATION: THE RESIDUE OF MY PEOPLE SHALL SPOIL THEM, AND THE REMNANT OF MY PEOPLE SHALL POSSESS THEM.**

**10 THIS SHALL THEY HAVE FOR THEIR PRIDE, BECAUSE THEY HAVE REPROACHED AND MAGNIFIED THEMSELVES AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF THE LORD OF HOSTS.**

**11 THE LORD WILL BE TERRIBLE UNTO THEM: FOR HE WILL FAMISH ALL THE GODS OF THE EARTH; AND MEN SHALL WORSHIP HIM, EVERY ONE FROM HIS PLACE, EVEN ALL THE ISLES OF THE HEATHEN.**

**12 YE ETHIOPIANS ALSO, YE SHALL BE SLAIN BY MY SWORD.**

**13 AND HE WILL STRETCH OUT HIS HAND AGAINST THE NORTH, AND DESTROY ASSYRIA; AND WILL MAKE NINEVEH A DESOLATION, AND DRY LIKE A WILDERNESS.**

**14 AND FLOCKS SHALL LIE DOWN IN THE MIDST OF HER, ALL THE BEASTS OF THE NATIONS: BOTH THE CORMORANT AND THE BITTERN SHALL LODGE IN THE UPPER LINTELS OF IT; THEIR VOICE SHALL SING IN THE WINDOWS; DESOLATION SHALL BE IN THE THRESHOLDS: FOR HE SHALL UNCOVER THE CEDAR WORK.**

**15 THIS IS THE REJOICING CITY THAT DWELT CARELESSLY, THAT SAID IN HER HEART, I AM, AND THERE IS NONE BESIDE ME: HOW IS SHE BECOME A DESOLATION, A PLACE FOR BEASTS TO LIE DOWN IN! EVERY ONE THAT PASSETH BY HER SHALL HISS, AND WAG HIS HAND.**

### **ZEPHANIAH 3:1-13**

**1 WOE TO HER THAT IS FILTHY AND POLLUTED, TO THE OPPRESSING CITY!**

**2 SHE OBEYED NOT THE VOICE; SHE RECEIVED NOT CORRECTION; SHE TRUSTED NOT IN THE LORD; SHE DREW NOT NEAR TO HER GOD.**

**3 HER PRINCES WITHIN HER ARE ROARING LIONS; HER JUDGES ARE EVENING WOLVES; THEY GNAW NOT THE BONES TILL THE MORROW.**

**4 HER PROPHETS ARE LIGHT AND TREACHEROUS PERSONS: HER PRIESTS HAVE POLLUTED THE SANCTUARY, THEY HAVE DONE VIOLENCE TO THE LAW.**

**5 THE JUST LORD IS IN THE MIDST THEREOF; HE WILL NOT DO INIQUITY: EVERY MORNING DOETH HE BRING HIS JUDGMENT TO LIGHT, HE FAILETH NOT; BUT THE UNJUST KNOWETH NO SHAME.**

**6 I HAVE CUT OFF THE NATIONS: THEIR TOWERS ARE DESOLATE; I MADE THEIR STREETS WASTE, THAT NONE PASSETH BY: THEIR CITIES ARE DESTROYED, SO THAT THERE IS NO MAN, THAT THERE IS NONE INHABITANT.**

**7 I SAID, SURELY THOU WILT FEAR ME, THOU WILT RECEIVE INSTRUCTION; SO THEIR DWELLING SHOULD NOT BE CUT OFF, HOWSOEVER I PUNISHED THEM: BUT THEY ROSE EARLY, AND CORRUPTED ALL THEIR DOINGS.**

**8 THEREFORE WAIT YE UPON ME, SAITH THE LORD, UNTIL THE DAY THAT I RISE UP TO THE PREY: FOR MY DETERMINATION IS TO GATHER THE NATIONS, THAT I MAY ASSEMBLE THE KINGDOMS, TO POUR UPON THEM MINE INDIGNATION, EVEN ALL MY FIERCE ANGER: FOR ALL THE EARTH SHALL BE DEVOURED WITH THE FIRE OF MY JEALOUSY.**

**9 FOR THEN WILL I TURN TO THE PEOPLE A PURE LANGUAGE, THAT THEY MAY ALL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD, TO SERVE HIM WITH ONE CONSENT.**

**10 FROM BEYOND THE RIVERS OF ETHIOPIA MY SUPPLIANTS, EVEN THE DAUGHTER OF MY DISPERSED, SHALL BRING MINE OFFERING.**

**11 IN THAT DAY SHALT THOU NOT BE ASHAMED FOR ALL THY DOINGS, WHEREIN THOU HAST TRANSGRESSED AGAINST ME: FOR THEN I WILL TAKE AWAY OUT OF THE MIDST OF THEE THEM THAT REJOICE IN THY PRIDE, AND THOU SHALT NO MORE BE HAUGHTY BECAUSE OF MY HOLY MOUNTAIN.**

**12 I WILL ALSO LEAVE IN THE MIDST OF THEE AN AFFLICTED AND POOR PEOPLE, AND THEY SHALL TRUST IN THE NAME OF THE LORD.**

**13 THE REMNANT OF ISRAEL SHALL NOT DO INIQUITY, NOR SPEAK LIES; NEITHER SHALL A DECEITFUL TONGUE BE FOUND IN THEIR MOUTH: FOR THEY SHALL FEED AND LIE DOWN, AND NONE SHALL MAKE THEM AFRAID.**

**Zephaniah was hopeful in his outlook. Even though he dreaded the horrors of the Day of Jehovah which he saw fast approaching, he could look beyond and rejoice in the Restoration message.**

**In the last chapter, the prophet foretells the coming of a glad day, when the Hebrews shall become a praise among all the people of the earth.**

**ZEPHANIAH 3:14 - 20**

**14 SING, O DAUGHTER OF ZION; SHOUT, O ISRAEL; BE GLAD AND REJOICE WITH ALL THE HEART, O DAUGHTER OF JERUSALEM.**

**15 THE LORD HATH TAKEN AWAY THY JUDGMENTS, HE HATH CAST OUT THINE ENEMY: THE KING OF ISRAEL, EVEN THE LORD, IS IN THE MIDST OF THEE: THOU SHALT NOT SEE EVIL ANY MORE.**

**16 IN THAT DAY IT SHALL BE SAID TO JERUSALEM, FEAR THOU NOT: AND TO ZION, LET NOT THINE HANDS BE SLACK.**

**17 THE LORD THY GOD IN THE MIDST OF THEE IS MIGHTY; HE WILL SAVE, HE WILL REJOICE OVER THEE WITH JOY; HE WILL REST IN HIS LOVE, HE WILL JOY OVER THEE WITH SINGING.**

**18 I WILL GATHER THEM THAT ARE SORROWFUL FOR THE SOLEMN ASSEMBLY, WHO ARE OF THEE, TO WHOM THE REPROACH OF IT WAS A BURDEN.**

**19 BEHOLD, AT THAT TIME I WILL UNDO ALL THAT AFFLICT THEE: AND I WILL SAVE HER THAT HALTETH, AND GATHER HER THAT WAS DRIVEN OUT; AND I WILL GET THEM PRAISE AND FAME IN EVERY LAND WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN PUT TO SHAME.**

**20 AT THAT TIME WILL I BRING YOU AGAIN, EVEN IN THE TIME THAT I GATHER YOU: FOR I WILL MAKE YOU A NAME AND A PRAISE AMONG ALL PEOPLE OF THE EARTH, WHEN I TURN BACK YOUR CAPTIVITY BEFORE YOUR EYES, SAITH THE LORD.**

### **HABAKKUK**

Habakkuk started his work as a prophet at the same time Jeremiah accepted the call, 628 B.C. Chapters 1 and 2 of Habakkuk set forth Habakkuk's prophetic oracle or burden. Twice the prophet is perplexed and asks divine enlightenment. Twice he is answered. First he is concerned over the violence and sins of his people, the Judeans. Why are these wicked men not punished?

#### **HABAKKUK 1:2-4**

**2 O LORD, HOW LONG SHALL I CRY, AND THOU WILT NOT HEAR! EVEN CRY OUT UNTO THEE OF VIOLENCE, AND THOU WILT NOT SAVE!**

**3 WHY DOST THOU SHEW ME INIQUITY, AND CAUSE ME TO BEHOLD GRIEVANCE? FOR SPOILING AND VIOLENCE ARE BEFORE ME: AND THERE ARE THAT RAISE UP STRIFE AND CONTENTION.**

**4 THEREFORE THE LAW IS SLACKED, AND JUDGMENT DOTH NEVER GO FORTH: FOR THE WICKED DOTH COMPASS ABOUT THE RIGHTEOUS; THEREFORE WRONG JUDGMENT PROCEEDETH.**

**God answers that He is about to send the Chaldeans to judge Judah.**

#### **HABAKKUK 1:5-11**

**5 BEHOLD YE AMONG THE HEATHEN, AND REGARD, AND WONDER MARVELLOUSLY: FOR I WILL WORK A WORK IN YOUR DAYS, WHICH YE WILL NOT BELIEVE, THOUGH IT BE TOLD YOU.**

**6 FOR, LO, I RAISE UP THE CHALDEANS, THAT BITTER AND HASTY NATION, WHICH SHALL MARCH THROUGH THE BREADTH OF THE LAND, TO POSSESS THE DWELLINGPLACES THAT ARE NOT THEIRS.**

**7 THEY ARE TERRIBLE AND DREADFUL: THEIR JUDGMENT AND THEIR DIGNITY SHALL PROCEED OF THEMSELVES.**

**8 THEIR HORSES ALSO ARE SWIFTER THAN THE LEOPARDS, AND ARE MORE FIERCE THAN THE EVENING WOLVES: AND THEIR HORSEMEN SHALL**



**SPREAD THEMSELVES, AND THEIR HORSEMEN SHALL COME FROM FAR; THEY SHALL FLY AS THE EAGLE THAT HASTETH TO EAT.  
9 THEY SHALL COME ALL FOR VIOLENCE: THEIR FACES SHALL SUP UP AS THE EAST WIND, AND THEY SHALL GATHER THE CAPTIVITY AS THE SAND.  
10 AND THEY SHALL SCOFF AT THE KINGS, AND THE PRINCES SHALL BE A SCORN UNTO THEM: THEY SHALL DERIDE EVERY STRONG HOLD; FOR THEY SHALL HEAP DUST, AND TAKE IT.  
11 THEN SHALL HIS MIND CHANGE, AND HE SHALL PASS OVER, AND OFFEND, IMPUTING THIS HIS POWER UNTO HIS GOD. ?**

The answer plunges Habakkuk into a greater perplexity. How can a righteous God use the wicked Chaldeans to punish Judah, which, although it has become apostate, is still better than the Chaldeans?

**HABAKKUK 1:12-17**

**12 ART THOU NOT FROM EVERLASTING, O LORD MY GOD, MINE HOLY ONE? WE SHALL NOT DIE. O LORD, THOU HAST ORDAINED THEM FOR JUDGMENT; AND, O MIGHTY GOD, THOU HAST ESTABLISHED THEM FOR CORRECTION.  
13 THOU ART OF PURER EYES THAN TO BEHOLD EVIL, AND CANST NOT LOOK ON INIQUITY: WHEREFORE LOOKEST THOU UPON THEM THAT DEAL TREACHEROUSLY, AND HOLDEST THY TONGUE WHEN THE WICKED DEVoureth THE MAN THAT IS MORE RIGHTEOUS THAN HE?  
14 AND MAKEST MEN AS THE FISHES OF THE SEA, AS THE CREEPING THINGS, THAT HAVE NO RULER OVER THEM?  
15 THEY TAKE UP ALL OF THEM WITH THE ANGLE, THEY CATCH THEM IN THEIR NET, AND GATHER THEM IN THEIR DRAG: THEREFORE THEY REJOICE AND ARE GLAD.  
16 THEREFORE THEY SACRIFICE UNTO THEIR NET, AND BURN INCENSE UNTO THEIR DRAG; BECAUSE BY THEM THEIR PORTION IS FAT, AND THEIR MEAT PLENTEOUS.  
17 SHALL THEY THEREFORE EMPTY THEIR NET, AND NOT SPARE CONTINUALLY TO SLAY THE NATIONS?**

God's answer is that the proud conquerors will themselves be punished.

**HABAKKUK 2:1-4**

**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 REPROVED.  
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.  
4 BEHOLD, HIS SOUL WHICH IS LIFTED UP IS NOT UPRIGHT IN HIM: BUT THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY HIS FAITH.**

Habakkuk told the people to be faithful. He said that they righteous abide in God and observe what God has told them to do even though the helps that God had given to them—the law, the tabernacle, the nation, the temple, and the temple ritual—had been taken away.

**HABAKKUK 2:4**

**4 BEHOLD, HIS SOUL WHICH IS LIFTED UP IS NOT UPRIGHT IN HIM: BUT THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY HIS FAITH.**

The just shall live by faith became very important for the New Testament.

**ROMANS 1:17**

**17 FOR THEREIN IS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD REVEALED FROM FAITH TO FAITH: AS IT IS WRITTEN, THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.**

**GALATIANS 3:11**

**11 BUT THAT NO MAN IS JUSTIFIED BY THE LAW IN THE SIGHT OF GOD, IT IS EVIDENT: FOR, THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.**

**HEBREWS 10:38**

**38 NOW THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH: BUT IF ANY MAN DRAW BACK, MY SOUL SHALL HAVE NO PLEASURE IN HIM.**

The second answer to Habbakkuk concludes with a series of woes against the Chaldeans.

**HABAKKUK 2:5-20**

**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:**

**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?**

**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.**

**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.**

**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?**

**14 FOR THE EARTH SHALL BE FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GLORY OF THE LORD, AS THE WATERS COVER THE SEA.**

**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.**

**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?**

**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.**

The Chaldeans are puffed-up with self-sufficient pride. God will give them their due reward or judgement.

Chapter 3 is called a prayer of Habakkuk the prophet. In a moving lyric poem the prophet records his final response to God's message of judgement. He describes the divine revelation in terms of a stormy theophany. He concludes that no matter what comes he will trust in God. The life of Habakkuk was a type of the Messiah based on his intercession and prayer for his people.

**HABAKKUK 3:3**

**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.**

**HABAKKUK 3:16-19**

**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:**

**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.**