

Fall of Israel and Judah: Timeline

- Joel 825 BC
- Jonah 775 BC
- Amos 750 BC
- Hosea 775-725 BC
- Micah 735-715 BC
- Zephaniah 627-626 BC
- Habakkuk 607-606 BC

722 BC Fall of Samaria
(Northern tribes of Israel)

Assyria:
Used to destroy
Israel

626 BC Rise of Babylonia
(Chaldeans)

612 Nineveh Falls
(Capital of Assyria)

586 BC Fall of Jerusalem/Judah
By Babylon

605 BC
Nebuchadnezzar:
Battle of Carchemish—
Judah comes under
Babylonian dominion

Written (607-606 BC)
During time of Jehoiakim king of Judah

A time of decline and fall in the kingdom of Judah

Habakkuk means: "To embrace" ...he embraces his people....tries to hold them up
Contemporary of Zephaniah and Jeremiah

(II Kings 23: 29-37) the times of his message

Theme: Chaldeans (ruling class of Babylon)...Babylonians were coming to the fore in
world power
Chaldeans/Babylonians interchangeable terms

Chaldeans
(Gen. 22: 22) descend from Chesed, son of Nahor (brother of Abraham)

Chaldeans mixed in with the earlier Babylonian people around 800 BC

Book discusses:
Babylon is going to be used to punish Judah

Also predicts Babylon's fall as well-- (parallels) Rev. 18: 2

Babylon rose to power quick...(626 BC)

(612 BC) Babylon destroys Nineveh, capital of Assyria

(609 BC) Judah comes under Egyptian dominion

(605 BC) Nebuchadnezzar defeats Egyptian/Assyrian forces battle of Carchemish

- Judah comes under Babylonian dominion

Book of Habakkuk is unique among the other prophetic books:
it was **not** a message from God to be given to the people....He
asked **questions**, and received **answers** from God

Habakkuk is shook up because of
the rampant sin he sees in Judah

Injustice and bloodshed

Habakkuk asks God:
How long before you will intervene because of the sin?
God gives him the answer

Habakkuk is quoted in the New Testament:
Acts 13: 40-41; Romans 1:7; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10; 37-38

- N. T. quotes-- gives validity to the book

Chapter 1

Verse one:

Not the standard prophetic introduction—of the prophet speaking from God to men (“the word of the Lord came...”)—Hosea, Amos, etc.

V. 2-4 Habakkuk asks God **questions** about the violence, injustice and lawlessness in Judah

v. 2 Questions:
Will you not hear?....
Because **of violence**

Violence: society as a result of sin
Word (violence) appears 6 times in the book

v. 2 (last part)

“you will not save” (are you going to intervene)?

v. 3

“you **show me** iniquity”... “cause me **to see** violence”

He was already living among iniquity and violence...

➤ Visions of the future...time before Christ returns

v. 4

“law is powerless” (NIV) “law is paralyzed”

Zephaniah 3:4) “violence to the law”—moral and spiritual law

“wicked surround the righteous”—righteous hemmed in... have no justice

And the judgment is **perverse**

Therefore will God intervene for
the nation because of all the
violence and injustice?

Summary v. 2-4

v. 5 God answers Habakkuk

“Look”...at the nations

“work a work”: God will use a nation as a
rod of punishment for Judah’s corruption

v. 5 (last part)

“which you would not believe”

1. Sudden rise of Babylon to a world power
2. Babylon appeared friendly at that time (II Kings 20: 12-19)

“in your days” —ancient Judah

But also a vision of future (Rev. 17-18)

v. 5(middle of verse)

“I will work a work in your days”

Applied to the work Mr. Armstrong began—preaching the gospel message powerfully

Acts 13: 41 (Paul warned those who despised the gospel of judgment)

v. 6

“raising up”—as God’s agent of judgment

➤ Chaldeans/Babylonians

“through the breadth of earth”—goes beyond Palestine

v. 7

Describes their fierceness

v. 8

Speed of their military

v. 9

Description of war

“east wind”—ferocious...“gather captives”

Deut. 28: 49

God warned Israel of war as punishment for disobedience

v. 10

“scoffs at kings”—because they are helpless against their power

No stronghold can resist them—they overwhelm nations

v. 11

(TEV) “Then they sweep on like the wind and are gone, on to some new conquest, the men whose power is their god”

“he commits offence”—to God because of their actions

Their might and power are their god—PRIDE

Ends God’s response to Habakkuk of how we was going to deal with the corruption in Judah—by using the Babylonians

v. 12

Habakkuk is going to ask God more questions:

He begins by acting as the people's representative acknowledging God's greatness

"We shall not die" —not be completely wiped out

"you have appointed them (Babylonians) for judgment (on Judah)

"marked them for correction" —using Babylon as his agent of correction to Judah

v. 13

(Habakkuk is bewildered that God would use wicked people as his agent of punishment)

"to behold evil"... "to look on wickedness" (of the Babylonians)

"when the wicked devours a more righteous person"

As bad as Judah had become... he knows the Babylonians are worse

v.14

(Figurative)

Babylonians take captives like a fisherman gathers from his net

v. 15

“hook, net and dragnet” —represent the Babylonian’s weapons as they gather captives

“rejoice and are glad” —because of their military success and worshipping their power

v.16

Victory celebration for their military triumph...they worship their tools of conquest

v. 17

Habakkuk asks one more question of God:

“Are they going to empty their nets (enjoy their conquest) and continue to devour other nations?”

Chapter 2

v. 1

He sets himself as a watchman and waits for God's answer

He anticipates correction from God

v. 2

Vision to be written on tablets (kind displayed in public places) with clear large letters,
easy to read

(Paraphrase) "Write it on a billboard, SO LARGE that a running man could read it"

Then the one reading it would tell of the vision

The vision is going to speak of Babylon's fall...thus answering Habakkuk's question of
how he could use these wicked people to punish his people

v. 3

“For an appointed time” (Dual)

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- Fall of ancient Babylon (539 BC)
- Fall of end time Babylon (Rev. 18: 2)

“It will surely come”—Babylon’s fall

“it will speak”—the vision will not disappoint

“wait for it”—God is saying: to be patient ...it will happen

(latter part of verse) Hebrews 10 : 37

Applied to the return of Christ who will bring the full measure of reward to the righteous
and punishment to the wicked

v. 4

(**this verse summarizes** all of the teaching of the Old Testament and New Testament in one short verse)

Two roads or principles of life: one leads to death...the other to life

“proud” (wrong road)---Babylonians...going to death...“his soul is not upright in him”

“the just” (right road)—righteous...trusts in God, is faithful and will live

“the just shall live by faith”:

Hebrews 10: 38—faith gives us endurance to be saved

Romans 1: 17—live believing the gospel as the way to salvation

Galatians 3: 11—being right with God (justification) comes through faith