

HABBAKUK

CHAPTER 1

The burden which Habbakuk the prophet did see. ²O Lord, how long shall I cry, and Thou wilt not hear? Shall I cry out to Thee being injured, and Thou wilt not save? ³Why hast Thou shewed me troubles and sorrows to behold, misery and ungodliness? Judgment is before me, and the judge receiveth a reward. ⁴Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth not go forth effectually: for the ungodly prevaieth over the righteous; therefore shall judgment come forth perverted. ⁵Behold, ye that despise, and regard, and wonder marvellously, and vanish: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though a man tell it. ⁶Wherefore, lo, I stir up the Chaldeans, the bitter and hasty nation, which walketh upon the breadth of the land, to inherit dwellings *that are* not his own. ⁷He is terrible and famous; and his judgment shall proceed of himself, and his burden shall come out of himself. ⁸His horses also shall leap more swiftly than leopards, and are more fierce than the wolves of Arabia: and his horsemen shall ride forth and rush from afar; and they shall fly as an eagle that hasteth to eat. ⁹Destruction shall come upon ungodly men, that stand with their face over against them, and he shall gather the captivity as the sand. ¹⁰And he shall eat, and kings shall be a scorn unto him, and princes shall be his plaything, and he shall deride every strong hold; and he shall heap dust, and take it. ¹¹Then shall he change his spirit, and he shall pass through, and make an atonement, saying, This power belongeth to my God. ¹²Art not Thou from everlasting, O Lord God, my Holy One? and so shall we not die. O Lord, Thou hast ordained him for judgment, and He hath fashioned me to chasten *with* His correction. ¹³His eye to too pure to behold evil, and Thou canst not look on afflictions: wherefore dost Thou look upon them that despise? wilt Thou hold Thy tongue when the ungodly swalloweth up the just? ¹⁴And wilt Thou make men as the fishes of the sea, and as the creeping things, that have no leader? ¹⁵He hath brought up destruction with an hook, and drawn one with a casting net, and caught another in his drags: therefore shall his heart rejoice and be glad. ¹⁶Therefore will he sacrifice unto his net, and burn incense unto his casting net; because by them hath he made his portion fat, and his meats choice. ¹⁷Therefore will he cast his net, and not spare continually to slay the nations.

CHAPTER 2

I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the rock, and will watch to see what He will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved. ²And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and plainly upon a tablet, that he may run that readeth it. ³For the vision is yet

for an appointed time, and at the end it shall rise up, and not in vain: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, and will not tarry. ⁴If it draw back, My soul hath no pleasure in it: but the just shall live by faith in Me. ⁵But the man that is drunken with wine, and a despiser, a boastful man, shall not finish aught; who hath enlarged his desire as Hades, and as death is never satisfied, and will gather unto him all the nations, and will take unto him all the peoples. ⁶Shall not all these take up a parable against him, and a proverb to tell against him? and they shall say, Woe to him that increaseth unto himself that which is not his! how long? and who heavily ladeth his yoke. ⁷For suddenly there shall rise up those that bite him, and they that take counsel against thee shall awake; and thou shalt be for a spoil unto them. ⁸Because thou hast spoiled many nations, all the nations that remain shall spoil thee; because of men's blood, and for the sins of the land and city, and of all that dwell therein. ⁹Woe 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 evils! ¹⁰Thou hast consulted shame to thy house, thou hast cut off many nations, and thy soul hath sinned. ¹¹For the stone shall cry out of the wall, and the beetle out of the timber shall speak. ¹²Woe to him that buildeth a city with blood, and stablisheth a city by unrighteousness! ¹³Are not these things of the Lord Almighty? and many people have perished in the fire, and many nations are become fainthearted. ¹⁴For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord; it shall cover them as water. ¹⁵Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour to drink the thick lees, and maketh him drunken also, that he may look upon their secret parts! ¹⁶Drink thou also to the full of dishonour from glory: shake, O heart, and quake; the cup of the right hand of the Lord is come round upon thee, and dishonour is gathered on thy glory. ¹⁷For the ungodliness of Lebanon shall cover thee, and the misery of wild beasts shall dismay thee, because of the blood of men, and the sins of the land and the city, and of all that dwell therein. ¹⁸What profiteth it the graven image that they have graven it? He hath made it a molten work, a false image; for the maker hath trusted in his work, to make dumb idols. ¹⁹Woe unto him that saith to the wood, Awake, arise; and to the stone, Be thou exalted; seeing it is an image, and this is a casting of gold and silver, and there is no breath therein. ²⁰But the Lord is in His holy temple: let all the earth do reverence before Him.

CHAPTER 3

A prayer of the prophet Habbakuk with an ode.

O Lord, I have heard Thy report, and was afraid: ²O Lord, I considered Thy works, and was astonished. In the midst of the two living creatures Thou shalt be acknowledged when the years draw nigh; Thou shalt be revealed when the time is come; when the time is come, in wrath shalt Thou remember mercy. ³God shall come from Teman, and the Holy One from

a shady densely wooded mountain. (*diapsalma*). His virtue hath covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise. ⁴And His brightness shall be as the light; horns are in His hands; and He hath established a mighty love of His strength. ⁵Before His face shall a word proceed; and He shall go forth for instruction at His feet. ⁶He stood, and the earth was moved; He beheld, and the nations melted away; the mountains were violently burst asunder, the everlasting hills melted away ⁷at His everlasting going forth. Because of troubles I looked upon the tents of the Ethiopians: the tabernacles also of the land of Midian shall be dismayed. ⁸Wast Thou angry, O Lord, with the rivers? or was Thy wrath against the rivers, or Thine onslaught against the sea? for Thou shalt mount upon Thine horses, and Thy chariots are salvation. ⁹Thou shalt surely bend thy bow against sceptres, saith the Lord. (*diapsalma*). The land of rivers shall be torn asunder. ¹⁰The nations shall see Thee, and be in travail, while Thou scatterest the courses of the waters: the deep uttered her voice, and raised her form on high. ¹¹The sun was lifted up, and the moon stood still in her course; at the light shall Thy darts go forth, at the brightness of the gleaming of Thy weapons. ¹²Thou shalt bring low the earth with threatening, and in wrath shalt Thou bring down nations. ¹³Thou wentest forth for the salvation of Thy people, even to save Thine anointed. Thou hast brought bands upon their neck. (*diapsalma*). ¹⁴Thou hast cut asunder with anger the heads of the mighty; they shall tremble in it; they shall break open the bridles, as a poor man that eateth in secret. ¹⁵And Thou hast caused Thine horses to go up into the sea, stirring up the many waters. ¹⁶I watched, and my belly was troubled, at the voice of the prayer of my lips; and trembling went into my bones, and my mind was troubled within me. I will rest in the day of mine affliction, that I may go up to the people of my sojourning. ¹⁷For the fig tree shall not bear fruit, and there shall be no increase in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the plains shall bear no meat; the sheep have failed from their pasture, and there are no oxen at the cribs. ¹⁸Yet I will be glad in the Lord, I will rejoice in God my Saviour. ¹⁹The Lord God is my strength, and He will establish my feet unto perfection: He mounteth me upon high places, that I may conquer by His song.