

Habakkuk (qwqqbx)

(or, “Hello! God! Are you there?!?”)

Author

Name

From “To cling or embrace”
Also Babylonian for “Cucumber”
Lived in Jerusalem (cf. 2:1): Possibly a “Temple Prophet”

Historical Reference

Dead Sea Scrolls contain a commentary on Habakkuk
Bel and the Dragon 1:31–40 (Fiction)

1:31 They threw Daniel into the lions’ den, and he was there for six days. 1:32 There were seven lions in the den, and every day they had been given two human bodies and two sheep; but these were not given to them now, so that they might devour Daniel. 1:33 Now the prophet Habakkuk was in Judea. He had boiled pottage and had broken bread into a bowl, and was going into the field to take it to the reapers. 1:34 But the angel of the Lord said to Habakkuk, “Take the dinner which you have to Babylon, to Daniel, in the lions’ den.” 1:35 Habakkuk said, “Sir, I have never seen Babylon, and I know nothing about the den.” 1:36 Then the angel of the Lord took him by the crown of his head, and lifted him by his hair and set him down in Babylon, right over the den, with the rushing sound of the wind itself. 1:37 Then Habakkuk shouted, “Daniel, Daniel! Take the dinner which God has sent you.” 1:38 And Daniel said, “Thou hast remembered me, O God, and hast not forsaken those who love thee.” 1:39 So Daniel arose and ate. And the angel of God immediately returned Habakkuk to his own place. 1:40 On the seventh day the king came to mourn for Daniel. When he came to the den he looked in, and there sat Daniel.

Date

c. 609 BC, near the end of Josiah’s reign in Judah and the beginning of Jehoiakim’s
Before the Babylonian Captivity, probably a contemporary of Jeremiah, Nahum, & Zephaniah

Other events around this time:

704 Ninevah established as the capital of Assyria
700 BC The saddle is developed
688 BC Boxing included in Olympics
663 BC Assyrian empire reaches its greatest extent
661 BC Japan is founded
660 BC City of Byzantium (AKA Constantinople AKA Istanbul) established around this time
640 BC Kingdom of Macedonia established around this time
624 BC Horse Racing is added to the Olympics
612 BC The Medes & Babylonians sack Ninevah; the Assyrian Empire collapses
609 BC Pharaoh Neco assumes throne in Egypt
600 BC The religion of Zoroastrianism develops in Iran around this time
550 BC The first plays are performed in Greece around this time

I. Title

Oracle: “Burden”: Why would prophecy be a burden?

II. Complaint #1: Why does the evil in Judah go unpunished?

1:2) Why is “LORD” CAPITALIZED?

What “Violence” is he talking about? 1Ch 3:15; 2Ki 23:34-37; 24:1-6; 2Ch 36:4-8; Jer 22:13-19; 26:22,23; 36:1-32; Da 1:1,2
Mt 1:11

III. God’s Reply: The Babylonians will punish Judah.

1:5) You asked for it!

1:6) God uses Babylon (AKA Chaldea) to teach Judah a lesson.

1:7) Why did God choose Chaldeans? Their own righteousness?

1:8–10) Picture of their power

1:9) Chaldeans had a P.O.W. policy, thus they were a good tool for God to use. Why?

1:10) Why did they build ramps?

1:11) They worshipped themselves, like Secular Humanism



IV. Complaint #2: How can a just God use wicked Babylon to punish a people more righteous than themselves?

1:12) Is God a God who sends destruction? What about mercy?

1:13) “It’s not fair!” Have you ever felt like, if anyone should be punished, it should be someone else?

1:14) How are people like fish?
Is that according to God’s design for us?

1:15) What’s a dragnet?
Have you ever felt like you were “hooked” into a situation?
1:16) Have you ever worshipped your net?

2:1) What’s a rampart?
Habakkuk has cried out to God and awaits His response.

V. God’s Reply: Babylon will be punished, and faith will be rewarded.

2:2-3) “awaits an appointed time”: Who likes waiting for an answer?
 What other events “await the appointed time”? Christmas
 Why will God punish Babylon? Weren’t they doing God’s bidding?

2:4) Who is “he”?
 “the righteous will live by faith”: what does this mean in this context? In our lives?

2:5) See Dan 5, Pr 30:15-16

2:6) Who is “them”?

2:7) Who are the “debtors” and how are they in debt?

2:9) What does “set his nest on high” mean?

2:12) In what sense is the word “house” used here?
 What other nations were built on plunder and bloodshed?

2:14) Is God’s glory a good thing?
 Is knowledge of that glory good?
 Is there room for cities built on sin in the presence of God’s glory?

2:16) “Cup”: see Isa 51:17,22; Jer 25:15–16; Lm 4:21; Mr 14:36

2:17) Is God an animal rights activist?

2:18) Where do we get the word “idol”?

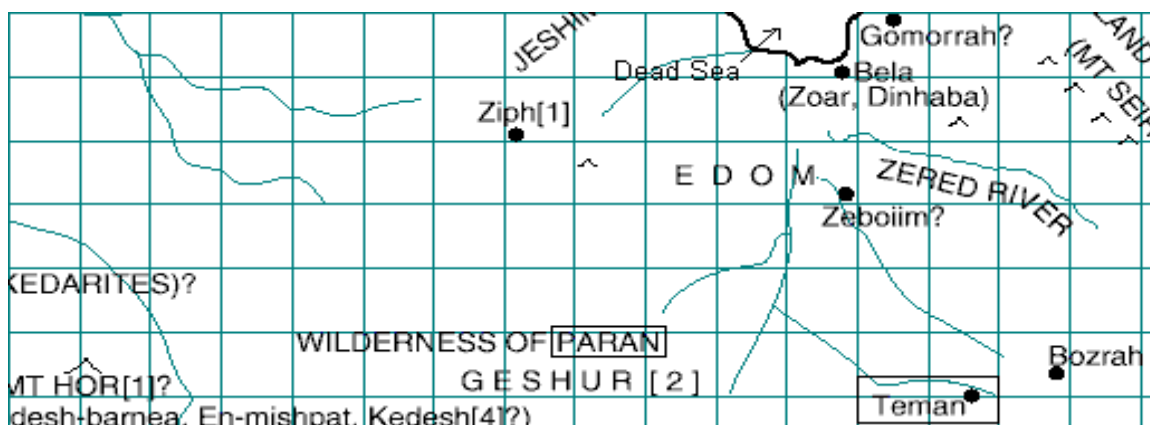
2:20) How is “the Lord...in His holy temple”?

VI. Habakkuk’s Prayer & Vision of God

3:2) Habakkuk’s prayer: Reference especially to the exodus

3:3) The route from Sinai to Palestine (See Map)
 3:7) “Cushan”?

3:8–10) Rivers: cf. Ex 15:14–16 (also maybe a reference to the great flood)



3:11) cf. Josh 10:12–13

3:12) What does “threshed the nations” mean?

3:13) Who is “Your anointed one”? “stripped him”: cf. 2:15

VII. Habakkuk’s reaction to the vision

3:16) God is mighty & powerful, not someone to question, yet at the same time, we can trust in Him.

OR, Babylon has a scary army, but I trust God to protect me. (Context probably supports the second)

3:17) What are deer feet good for?

What gives us those feet?

So, what’s the moral of the story?