

Habakkuk: Introduction and Background

Habakkuk 1:1, Wednesday, December 6, 2023

How is being known only by our God-given identity and His mission for us different than how we view ourselves and others both inside and outside the church? (What else do we desire/need?)

- We want to know their background, what perspective they are coming from, or why we should listen to them – something to validate them
- Who are they associated with?
- Appearance matters
- Style personality and preference out weigh the core mission
- Identity in what I'm doing, others seeing us performing, rather than a servant of God - it's messy to be faithful to calling
- Focus on one thing, instead of being a servant

in War Against the Philistines

● 621 BC The Book of the Law Is Found

538 BC Ex

nd Judah (Divided kingdom)

hallum

609 BC Neco II of Egypt and Josiah of Judah in the Battle of Megiddo ●

Israel Attacks Judah

609 – 605 BC Egypt Controls Judah

536 B

715 – 605 BC Judah Struggles Between Idolatry and Obedience

● 701 BC Sennacherib of Assyria Invades Judah

Sep 22, 601 BC Jehoiakim Rebels Against Babylon (Early) ●

● 701 BC Sennacherib of Assyria Captures Lachish

● ca 598 BC Jehoiakim Rebels Against Babylon

● 701 BC Rabshakeh Demands the Surrender of Jerusalem

589 BC Zedekiah of Jerusalem Allies With Egypt to Revolt Against Babylon ●

lath-Pileser III of Assyria Lays Siege to Damascus

605 BC Babylon Defeats Egypt and Assyria in the Battle of Carchemish ●

2 BC Tiglath-Pileser III of Assyria Captures Damascus and Galilee

589 BC Zedekiah Rebels Against Babylon ●

lath-Pileser III of Assyria Invades Israel and Deports Many Israelites

588 BC Judah Rebels Against Babylon ●

lath-Pileser III of Assyria Captures Ijon

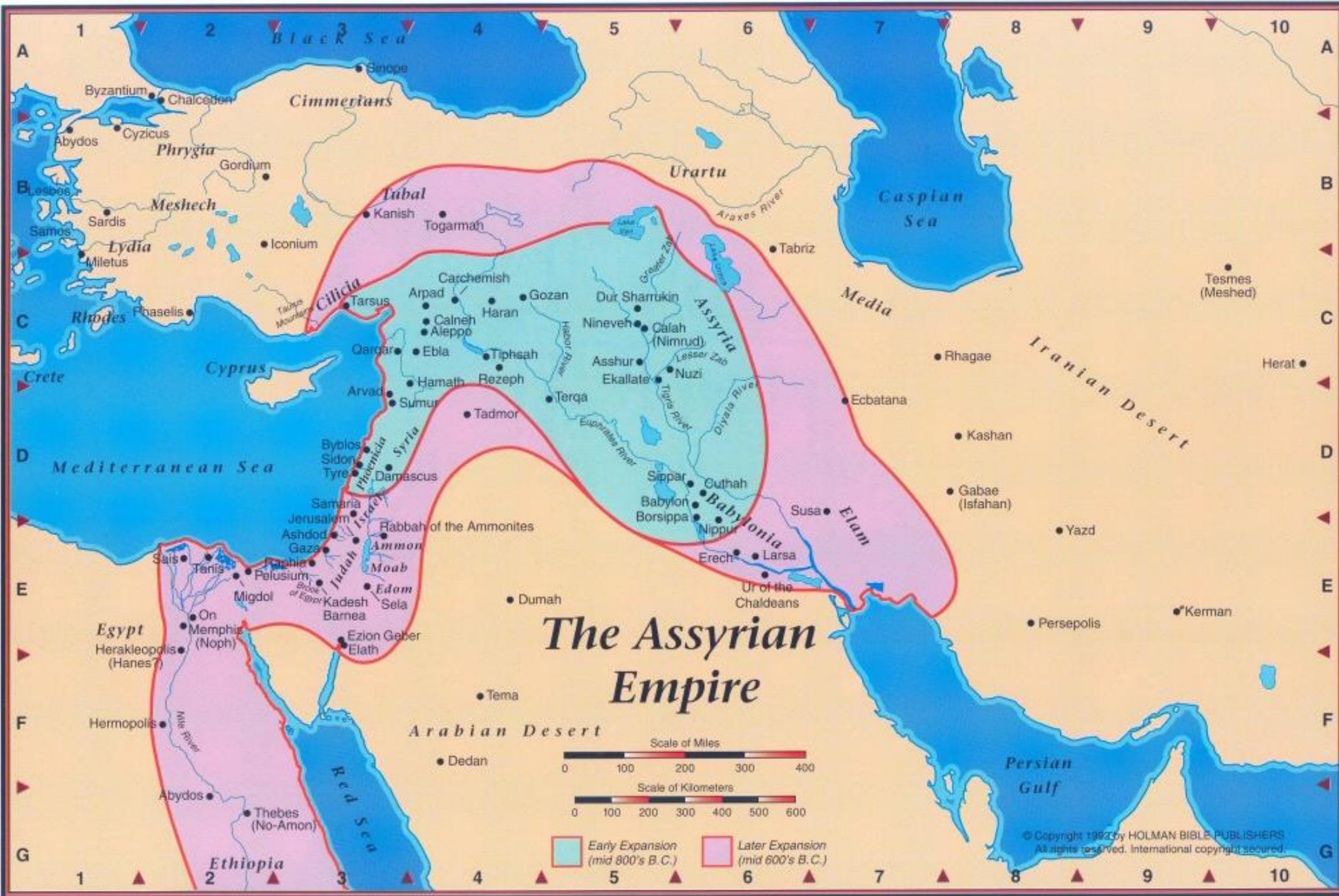
587 BC First Jewish Temple Is Destroyed ●

Ahaz of Judah Pays a Tribute to Assyria

726 BC Hoshea of Israel Pays Tribute to Assyria

● 724 BC Shalmaneser Imprisons Hoshea of Israel

● 722 BC Sargon II or Shalmaneser V of Assyria Conquers Samaria and Exiles Israelites (Fall of Israel)



○ **609-597 BC** reign of **Jehoiakim of Judah**, II Kings 23:36-24:7, Jeremiah 22:13-19, 26:1, 35:1; II Chronicles 36

○ **873 BC** Assyria rising world power moving westward since **Adad-nirari II (911-891)**

○ **858-824 BC** **Shalmaneser III**, got as far as 100 miles from Damascus and stopped—

○ **850 BC** went back & picked up Babylon, **841 BC** came back and besieged Damascus;

○ **Jehu king of Israel, paid tribute to Assyria, left alone for 100 years**

Jonah—somewhere b/n 782-753

○ **735? King Ahaz** (evil) of Judah asks Assyria for help against Israel and Syria II Ki. 16:2-9, Is. 7:1-17, 8:4-8

Micah—during this time

○ **722**—Israel (Northern Kingdom) falls to Assyria

○ **715-687 BC** **King Hezekiah** (good) revival wiping out idolatry & apostasy II Ki. 18:7,

○ **after 705 BC** Hezekiah stops paying tribute to Assyria; Sennacherib comes to attack Judah, II Ki. 18:13, 17 escape because God's intervention (II Ki. 19 destroying the Assyrian army); Hezekiah shows all wealth to Babylon

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Habakkuk 1:1

It was Hezekiah who stopped the upper outlet of the waters of Gihon and directed them to the west side of the city of David. And Hezekiah prospered in all that he did. 31 Even in the matter of the envoys of the rulers of Babylon, who sent to him to inquire of the wonder that had happened in the land, **God left him alone only to test him, that He might know all that was in his heart.** 2 Chronicles 32:30–31

“Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the LORD of hosts, **Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house and all that your fathers have laid up in store to this day will be carried to Babylon; nothing will be left,**” says the LORD. 7 ‘And some of your sons who will issue from you, whom you will beget, will be taken away, and they will become officials in the palace of the king of Babylon.’ ” 8 Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “The word of the LORD which you have spoken is good.” For he thought, “For there will be peace and truth in my days.” Isaiah 39:5–8

New American Standard Bible : 1995 update. 1995. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

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705?—Sennacherib of Assyria comes after Judah; God delivers, but **Hezekiah** shows all wealth to Babylon

687-642—King Manasseh—evil; Assyria destroys Egyptian capital Thebes in 663—Manasseh deported to Babylon by Assyrians, repents before God & restored to Jerusalem

Nahum prophecies Ninevah's fall

642-640—King Amon (evil) assassinated by own servants at age 24

640-609—King Josiah (good) had child at 14 (Jehoiakim), by 16, known as following God II Chron. 34:3; II Chron. 7:14, vv. 4-7
purged evil at age 20 BEFORE found book of the Law in temple at age 26—wept, celebrated Passover

Zephaniah (636-623?), Jeremiah (627-574?), Habakkuk (612-589)

612—Ninevah falls “Because she was a vassal of Egypt and a friend of Babylon, it seemed as if nothing could threaten the progress of Judah’s prosperity” CJ Barber

609—King Josiah dies seeking to stop Egypt’s aid to Assyria

- Babylon— II Ki. 20:12, Merodach-Baladan, son of king Baladan of Babylon, II Chron. 32:30-31 Isaiah warned (years before Habakkuk) that **Hezekiah's** sons taken to Babylon Is. 39:6-8
- **Manasseh (687-642)**—(II Ki. 21:1) introduced sacred prostitution, human sacrifice, Asherah in holy temple II Ki. 21:2-7 Manasseh helped Assyrians big push into Egypt— defeat at Memphis
- 663 BC **Assyria** destroys Egyptian capital Thebes
- **Nahum** (ministered 650-620) speaks of Ninevah's fall before people realized that Babylonia would do it; Nahum 3:8-10 written at height of conquest
- **Nahum**- judgment **Jonah**—forgiveness, redemption
- Manasseh didn't listen to prophets warning of same judgment that took place in Israel II Chron. 33:10-13 Deported to Babylon by the Assyrians
- Repented & restored to Jerusalem—building projects and some religious reforms

- **(642-640) Amon** turned away from God, assassinated by own servants II Ki. 21:19-23; II Chron. 33:20-24
- **Josiah (640-609)** 8 yr. old king II Ki. 22:1, (father murdered) —child at 14 (Jehoiakim), by 16, known as following God II Chron. 34:3; II Chron. 7:14, vv. 4-7
- **628 BC** early purge occurred in 12th year of reign when 20, II Kings 22:8-20,
- Purged north also -already been captured by Assyrians (standing against system that dominated about 60 years);
- **627 BC** death of mighty Ashurbanipal (who forced Manasseh to support fight against Egypt) ended 100 year period of Assyrian domination of people in Palestine
- 621 BC? (about age 26) II Chron. 34:8, 14-15 found scroll in temple (Deuteronomy) II Chron. 35 v. 18, —great Passover feast;
- “Because she was a vassal of Egypt and a friend of Babylon, it seemed as if nothing could threaten the progress of Judah’s prosperity”

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“I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn. 11 **“In that day there will be great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo.** Zechariah 12:10–11

In his days Pharaoh Neco king of Egypt went up to the king of Assyria to the river Euphrates. And King Josiah went to meet him, and when Pharaoh Neco saw him he killed him at Megiddo. 30 His servants drove his body in a chariot from Megiddo, and brought him to Jerusalem and buried him in his own tomb. Then the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah and anointed him and made him king in place of his father. 2 Kings 23:29–30

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612—Ninevah falls

609—King Josiah dies seeking to stop Egypt's aid to Assyria

609-597 Jehoiakim (evil) Neco placed Josiah's eldest son by another wife, wicked, sought luxury -
burned Jeremiah's scroll in Jer. 36, Jer. 22:18-19 promised burial of a donkey

- **625-575 BC** days of **Nahum, Zephaniah (636-623), Habakkuk** (prophetic career 612-589) and **Jeremiah (627-574)** —period where **Judah** loses life and religious center
- **Assyria** fades, Babylon takes over and growing
- **626 Nabopolassar** king of Babylonia (**626-605 king**) –turning point for Assyria
- **612 Ninevah fell to Babylonia & Medes**
- **Assuruballit II (612-609)** final king gathered Assyrian troops at Haran, but abandoned city to Babylonians under Nabopolassar (**610**)
- **609 BC Egypt** comes to Assyrian's aid, but held back by **Josiah of Judah** (died against Egypt in Megiddo battle) II Chron. 35:20-27
- People chose Josiah's son **Jehoahaz** king, II Chron. 36, II Kings 23:29-30 b/c thought stand against Egypt— lasted for 3 months, Neco took him in chains to Egypt -died there according to prophecy Jer. 22:10-11
- **Jehoiakim 609-597** Neco placed Josiah's eldest son by another wife, wicked, sought luxury - burned Jeremiah's scroll in Jer. 36, Jer. 22:18-19 promised burial of a donkey
- during reign of Jehoiakim foundation for Hab. 1:1-4 (after fall of Ninevah in 612)
- **605 BC** fall of Egypt at Carchemish -when Babylon's power and intent seen Hab. 1:5
- **587 BC Nebuchadnezzar successor to Nabonidus** - devastation of Jerusalem, carrying away captives






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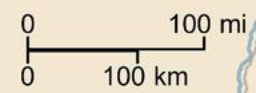
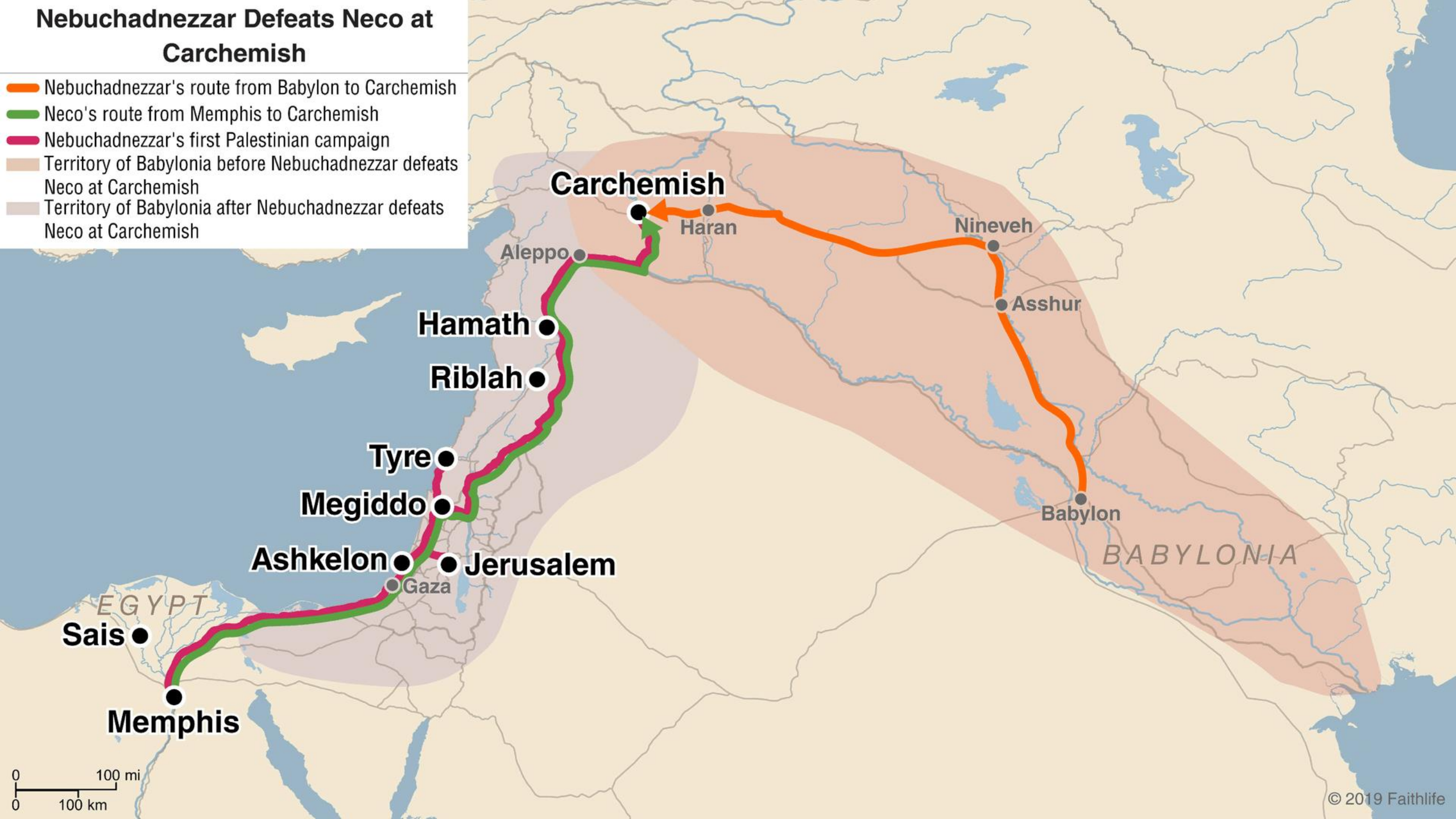
Habakkuk 1:1

Therefore thus says the LORD in regard to Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, **“They will not lament for him:** ‘Alas, my brother!’ or, ‘Alas, sister!’ They will not lament for him: ‘Alas for the master!’ or, ‘Alas for his splendor!’ 19 **“He will be buried with a donkey’s burial, Dragged off and thrown out beyond the gates of Jerusalem.**

Jeremiah 22:18–19

Nebuchadnezzar Defeats Neco at Carchemish

-  Nebuchadnezzar's route from Babylon to Carchemish
-  Neco's route from Memphis to Carchemish
-  Nebuchadnezzar's first Palestinian campaign
-  Territory of Babylonia before Nebuchadnezzar defeats Neco at Carchemish
-  Territory of Babylonia after Nebuchadnezzar defeats Neco at Carchemish

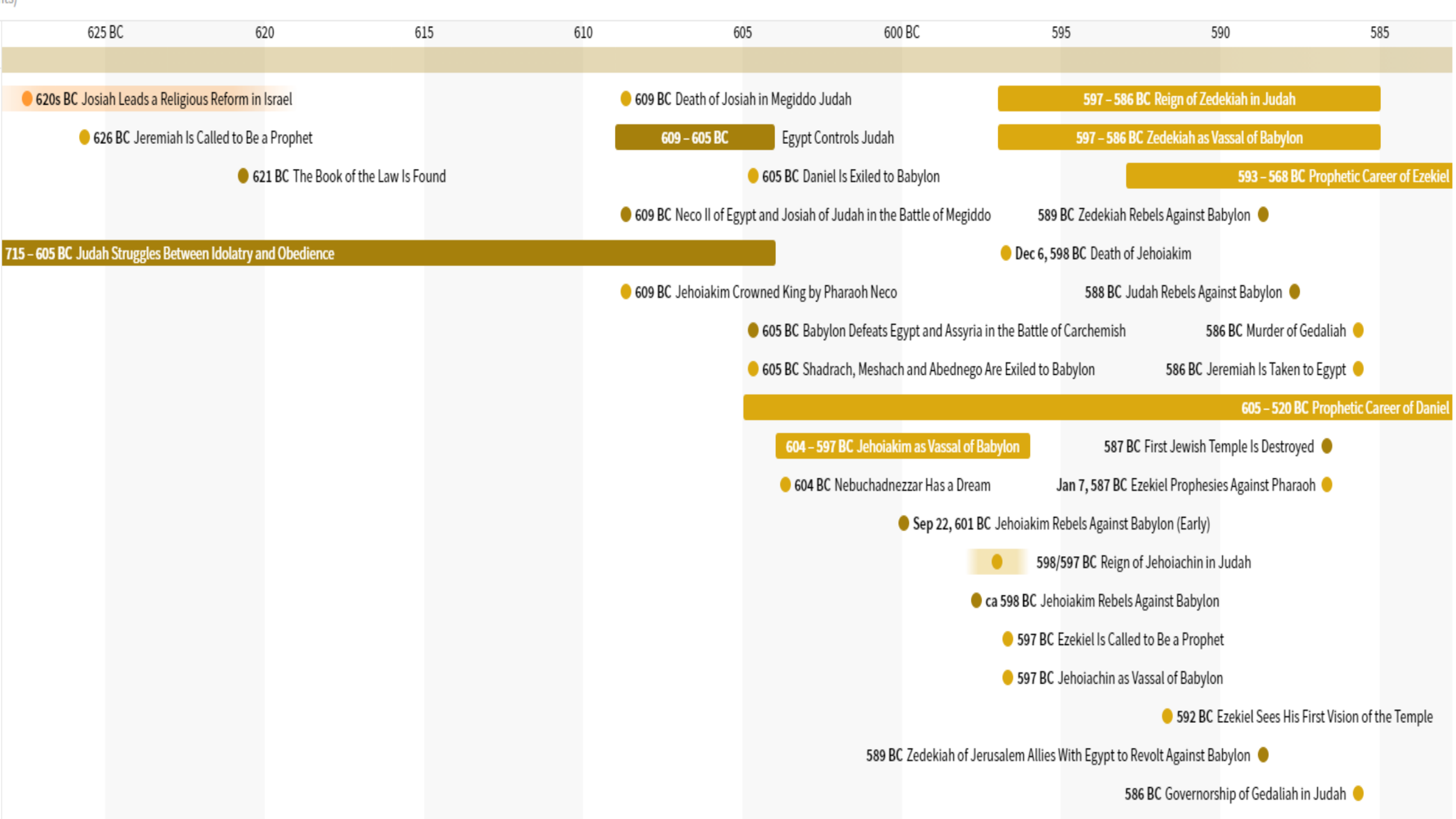


TIMELINE

HABAKKUK



*All dates are approximate



What are your thoughts about nations, God's people, and righteousness and judgment from an eternal perspective? What do you learn about God and His ways?

- Our sight is limited to even what God is doing in our day
- God sovereign over all nations
- God giving compassion, judgement throughout
- For the most part, nations are oblivious to what God is doing
- Other “gods” have supposed power but still fail, God’s power supreme as He works His good will
- God is calling us to submission (merciful because we continue to want our own way)
- Encouraged because happened before – therefore should be stabilized by God’s word
- Be careful about how we evaluate God’s leading (Neco with Josiah)
- God speaks through godless leaders – be careful with thinking that always a clear line of right – necessitates constant dependence/ looking to God

What are your thoughts about nations, God's people, and righteousness and judgment from an eternal perspective? What do you learn about God and His ways?

1. God brings respite even while movement toward impending judgment. Use it wisely.

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2. Worship God's judgment as a sign of God's holy justice.

What are your thoughts about nations, God's people, and righteousness and judgment from an eternal perspective? What do you learn about God and His ways?

1. God brings respite even while movement toward impending judgment. Use it wisely.
2. Worship God's judgment as a sign of God's holy justice.
3. Look farther ahead for God's justice, mercy, and deliverance.

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“It was an agitated time, characterized by rapid political change, international turmoil, bloody military encounters, and a growing rebellion against the demands of the covenant by the great majority in Judah. Prophetic activity was feverish, not only with the ministries of people like Jeremiah, Nahum, Zephaniah, Huldah, and Ezekiel, but also with false prophets in abundance.”

Kenneth Barker

What do you think should be the posture we take before God in the face of injustice, doubts, fears, and lack of hope? What fights against this posture?

- Humility and confidence
- Praise – God's still holy regardless, therefore praise
- Faith/loyalty – trust based on what has been accomplished
- Knowing we won't understand because God is wiser/willing to do work of believing
- Build on what God has started rather than 'harp on the hardness' of situation
- Watch bitterness resulting from injustice – results from our determination of how justice should be attained (meditate on God's promise, character, trusting in His final, perfect judgement)
- Watch thoughts that God's grace is not sufficient
- Perseverance
- Examine definitions of injustice, identity, hope, forgiveness

What do you think should be the posture we take before God in the face of injustice, doubts, fears, and lack of hope? What fights against this posture?

1. Come before God honestly and humbly.

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What happens if we fail to be honest with God?

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What prevents honesty in other relationships and what does this do to relationships?

What do you think should be the posture we take before God in the face of injustice, doubts, fears, and lack of hope? What fights against this posture?

1. Come before God honestly and humbly.
2. Come seeking to submit to God's Word, but make connections to your life with careful precision.

What do you think should be the posture we take before God in the face of injustice, doubts, fears, and lack of hope? What fights against this posture?

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“Habakkuk’s message is relevant to all times and peoples, as we are taught in the full scope of the canon (II Tim. 3:16-17). But the problem is this: how can we contemporize his words without weakening the meaning they had in their original setting? It is all too easy to declare that we are under no obligation to discover the meaning Habakkuk’s message had for its original author or first audience. But we do so at the risk of losing the authority and any objective controls over what the text is saying. After all, it was the prophet who stood in the council of God, not we. And it is the author who must first state what he means to say if we are to gain any sense of what the Spirit of God is saying to our day and generation.”

Walter Kaiser

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How do we “declare that we are under no obligation to discover the meaning Habakkuk’s message had for its original author or first audience?”

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What did all these men have that we might be in danger of forgetting when we confront these topics?

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What did all these men have that we might be in danger of forgetting when we confront these topics? What else do you think we might need?

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THEME: The Path of Faith in the Providence of God

What do you think should be the **posture we take before God in the face of injustice, doubts, fears, and lack of hope? What fights against this posture?**

1. Come before God honestly and humbly.
2. Come seeking to submit to God's Word, but make connections to your life with careful precision.
3. Avoid the easy route of venting and taking apart. Come prepared to do the hard work to build up your faith.