

## Habakkuk Intro & Background

Habakkuk 1:1-2, CBC November 29, 2023 Lord From Sorrows Deep I Call

1:1 oracle—burden; almost always in conjunction w prophecy it speaks of judgment/doom, used to prophecy against other nations (Is. 13:1 Babylon, 15:1 Moab, Nahum 1:1 Ninevah) but here, focus on divine revelation though feel the burden from “How long” to ending – though the fig tree . . . leaving confidence to endure the coming judgment); **who is Habakkuk?** (Conjecture, nothing more—ie. Bel & the Dragon—Habakkuk brings a meal to Daniel in the lion’s den); **we must take him for his job, not for breadth of knowledge about his person**—spokesperson for the Lord, bearer of God’s message; (not a problem—we do this all the time in life—job, not person—where? Fed ex, etc.); **are you okay being known this way as a Christian—by your identity and mission?** **How is this different from how we view & deal w people today inside the church let alone how we seek for identity outside the church?** We aren’t comfortable just being known as a servant, sweet fragrance to God—**often tied to our identity and service/mission is need for acceptance, understanding, freedom to express self, appreciated;** fine, but we want that from each other AND want to **know how other’s like us before we learn from/value/trust/serve alongside;** Habakkuk’s dialogue with God shows the messy work of what goes on for him to be faithful to that calling; Habakkuk will pour out heart--different from Job in what way? Job was personal, Habakkuk for himself but in view of the people of God and His plan for them; **though we don’t know Habakkuk, we do know his surroundings**—this will be knowledge dump—I’ve read a bit, both now and in 2008, but far from have my own hands around—will get a bunch of info, but not ordered, clean, or perhaps even as accurate (dates, etc.) as it could be; wish knew how to use resources better for better slides—**but want to set example of starting from where at and then cleaning up/adding to it later**—let’s try to add a little to your picture of Israel’s history; **want to study a little more on own?** Could start w **Kingdom of Priests** by Eugene Merrill; for Habakkuk, **we look?** Kings, Chronicles (specifically, reign of Jehoiakim of Judah (609-597), II Kings 23:36-24:7, Jeremiah 22:13-19, 26:1, 35:1; II Chronicles 36—**where will judgment come from for Judah?** But this is not their focus **1:5;** (Judah—3435 sq. miles; Delaware—1948 sq. miles 49<sup>th</sup> largest state, Connecticut 48<sup>th</sup>—4,842 sq. miles) Assyria had been rising world power moving empire westward since the reign of **Adad-nirari II (911-891)** (frame of reference **Jehoshaphat in Judah & Ahab king of Israel** around 873 BC. By the time of **Shalmaneser III (858-824)**, **clear** that Assyria was seeking to take over entire western world (got as far as 100 miles from Damascus, then stopped—went back & picked up Babylon in 850, then came back and besieged Damascus in 841; **Jehu, king of Israel**, paid heavy tribute to Assyria and were left alone for 100 years; they fell in 722; Judah started having trouble w Assyria when **King Ahaz**, king of Judah, refused to join Israel and Syria in coalition against Assyria in **II Ki. 16:2-9, Is. 7:1-17, 8:4-8;** led to Israel’s defeat; **Hezekiah 715-687 BC** big revival starting w Hezekiah himself & moving toward wiping out idolatry & apostasy, **II Ki. 18:7**, Hezekiah rebels against Assyria & stops paying tribute; sometime after 705, Sennacherib comes to power and comes after Judah, **II Ki. 18:13, 17** only escapes because of God’s intervention **II Ki. 19**, destroying the Assyrian army); important part of end of life was God granting him 15 yrs.—**remember what happened?** **Had ambassadors from?** Babylon—**II Ki. 20:12**, Merodach-Baladan, son of king Baladan of Babylon, **II Chron. 32:30-31**) Isaiah warned years b/r Habakkuk that sons taken to Babylon, but more worried about Assyria now—**Is. 39:6-8** **Manasseh (687-642)**—(began reign when 12, 10 yrs. W dad, 45 years alone afterwards **II Ki. 21:1**) introducing sacred prostitution & human sacrifice; even putting Asherah in the holy temple **II Ki. 21:2-7** (time of big push by Assyrians into Egypt—Manasseh used to help Assyria here; backed Egypt into corner by defeating them at Memphis—retreated to Ni’ (Thebes), Assyria destroys Egyptian capital Thebes in 663,—**Nahum** speaks of Ninevah’s fall (ministered 650-620) probably before people realized that Babylonia would do it; at greatest point of conquest when Nahum writes—**Nahum 3:8-10** (other book dealing w Assyria? **Jonah**—forgiveness, redemption; Nahum, judgment; yet Manasseh’s **failure to listen to prophets warning him of same judgment** that took place **in Israel led to?** **II Chron. 33:10-13** Being deported to Babylon by the Assyrians, repented & restored to Jerusalem—building projects and some religious reforms; son **Amon (642-640)** turned away from God, assassinated by own servants **II Ki. 21:19-23, II Chron. 33:20-24**, now good king **Josiah (640-609)** (8 yr. Old king **II Ki. 22:1**, (24 yr. Old father murdered) —prob. Married at 13, child at 14 (Jehoiakim), by 16, known as following God **II Chron. 34:3—using words of II Chron. 7:14, vv. 4-7**, early purge occurred in 12<sup>th</sup> year of reign when 20, **II Kings 22:8-20, 628 BC, one year before death of mighty Ashurbanipal in 627—who had forced Manasseh to support in fight against Egypt;** not only cleaned out idols in south, went into north which had already been captured by Assyrians (this put him on wrong side of mighty Assyrians at 20; standing against religious/social/political system that had dominated for some 60 years); when Ashurbanipal died in 627, ended 100 year period of Assyrian domination of people in Palestine Robertson, p. 9 this BEFORE **big discovery around age 26, around 621 BC???** **II Chron. 34:8, 14-15**, found scroll in temple (probably all or part of Deuteronomy) (**praise God** for sovereignty of some obedient priest hiding it) (**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" CJ Barber in Kenneth Barker NAC, p. 246 – period of 625-575BC these are days of Nahum, Zephaniah (636-623, 627), Habakkuk (prophetic career—612-589 Logos Timeline??, 630? 621-609, to 605?), and Jeremiah (627-574, 580) —but it is also the period where Judah loses life and religious center, Assyria fades, Babylon takes over Babylon growing--Nabopolassar becomes king of Babylonia in 626 (626-605 king) – turning point & writing on wall for Assyria—Ninevah fell in 612 to Babylonia & Medes; one final king of Assyria, Assurballit II (612-609) gathered Assyrian troops at Haran, but abandoned city to Babylonians under Nabopolassar (610)—Egypt tries to come to Assyria's aid, but held back by Josiah of Judah, So died against Egypt in Megiddo in battle in 609 II Chron. 35:20-27, this was landmark time—referred to in Zech. 12:10-11 100 years later upon Israel's restoration; then II Chron. 36, II Kings 23:29-30 people chose Josiah's son Jehoahaz king probably b/c thought would stand against Egypt—lasted for 3 months, then Neco took him in chains to Egypt where he died according to Jeremiah's prophecy Jer. 22:10-11, then Neco placed Josiah's eldest son by another wife, Jehoiakim 609-597 wicked, set up by Egyptians—sought luxury and made citizens build it for free b/c didn't have money for it; one who burned Jeremiah's scroll in Jer. 36, Jer. 22:18-19 promised him the burial of a donkey; sets foundation for what see in Hab. 1:1-4 seems to be during reign of Jehoiakim, after fall of Ninevah in 612 b/c Ninevah not mentioned but before fall of Egypt at Carchemish in 605 when Babylons power and intent fully seen by those observing—Hab. 1:5, Nebuchadnezzar as successor to Nabonidus would be carrying away captives from Judah, 587, devastation of Jerusalem; Give thoughts as think of what we've started to memorize & this background—what are your thoughts about nations, God's people, righteousness and judgment from eternal perspective? What do you learn about God and His ways?

**2 Kings 16:2-9** Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem; and he did not do what was right in the sight of the LORD his God, as his father David had done. 3 But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and even made his son pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had driven out from before the sons of Israel. 4 He sacrificed and burned incense on the high places and on the hills and under every green tree. 5 Then Rezin king of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah, king of Israel, came up to Jerusalem to wage war; and they besieged Ahaz, but could not overcome him. 6 At that time Rezin king of Aram recovered Elath for Aram, and cleared the Judeans out of Elath entirely; and the Arameans came to Elath and have lived there to this day. 7 So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, saying, "I am your servant and your son; come up and deliver me from the hand of the king of Aram and from the hand of the king of Israel, who are rising up against me." 8 Ahaz took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the LORD and in the treasuries of the king's house, and sent a present to the king of Assyria. 9 So the king of Assyria listened to him; and the king of Assyria went up against Damascus and captured it, and carried the people of it away into exile to Kir, and put Rezin to death.

**2 Kings 23:29-30** 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 Chronicles 32:30-31** 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.

**Isaiah 39:6-8** '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."

**Jeremiah 22:18-19** 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.

**Nahum 3:8-10** Are you better than No-amon, Which was situated by the waters of the Nile, With water surrounding her, Whose rampart was the sea, Whose wall consisted of the sea? 9 Ethiopia was her might, And Egypt too, without limits. Put and Lubim were among her helpers. 10 Yet she became an exile, She went into captivity; Also her small children were dashed to pieces At the head of every street; They cast lots for her honorable men, And all her great men were bound with fetters.

**Zechariah 12:10-11** "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.