

## God's Astonishing Answer to Injustice Habakkuk 1:5-11, CBC January 24, 2024 ????

Habakkuk has poured out his heart, **I. I went to the right place with injustice, but there is no action.** <sup>2</sup> How long, O LORD, will I call for help, And You will not hear? I cry out to You, "Violence!" Yet You do not save. **II. Because of your inaction, wickedness proliferates** <sup>3</sup> Why do You make me see iniquity, And cause me to look on wickedness? **III. It has infiltrated even the institutions set up to bring justice** <sup>4</sup> Therefore the law is ignored And justice is never upheld. **Question—When?** How Long? I've been crying to You AND You should notice; **Question: Why?** how could a righteous/compassionate God NOT ANSWER WHEN I CRY TO HIM FOR HELP IN THESE twisted unrighteous SITUATIONS? desires deliverance, God responds

### **I. Pay attention and you will see my work**

<sup>5</sup> "Look among the nations! Observe! in plural meaning not merely for Habakkuk, but he is to tell all those others who fear the Lord; **Result of careful looking at world picture around in light of Habakkuk's longing for God to bring justice to His twisted people?** Emotion—**Be astonished!** Startled & Amazed!!! no room for analyzing/comment because happening! And that happening will command attention; bring quick emotion; I AM ADDRESSING PROBLEM through this happening; but another emotion--**Wonder!** Idea of incredulity, disbelief, **Because I am doing something in your days— You would not believe if you were told.** **Why? What?** <sup>6</sup> "For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, when you look at the big players, you've looked in the wrong direction—20 years before, the Chaldeans were nothing, then in 614, conquered Assyrian capital, 612 Ninevah, Harran in 610, routed armies of Egypt at Carchemish in 605, then ruled over Babylonia, Assyria, Syria, Palestine, and Egypt; that's how quickly eliminated 300+ years of Assyrian domination—okay, but even if they are coming and by your hand, what does this have to do with the problem of injustice among your people? LOOK at the Chaldeans and see MY HAND

### **II. Study the object of My work to learn more of My ways**

<sup>v. 6</sup> That fierce and impetuous people Character—**fierce** (bitter, irritated, ill-tempered) & **impetuous** (irrational—don't think through things; act impulsively to achieve their ends--lash out at all around them); **problem w dealing w this situation?** Can't win—someone's going to get slugged; what picture running through your mind—who is it? **Who march throughout the earth To seize dwelling places which are not theirs.** (ie. Played risk? Monopoly? **Why like it, when don't?** domination—once have all the money, land—can do anything want—pay the measly electric company—risk—take any country—not afraid of losing skirmish—**who/what comes to mind when you think of sweeping force that you can't get past?** **what is effect of Chaldeans character and actions?** <sup>7</sup> "They are dreaded as noun—bared teeth or crocodile (Job 41:14), snort of warhorse (Job 39:20), **and feared;** word used in <sup>Deut. 1:19</sup> **Deut. 8:15** Chaldeans dreaded/feared! and they fear/ listen to NO ONE **Their justice and authority originate with themselves.** don't need anyone; all glory around them; **implications?** Can't appeal to anything (**like jello, like Mafia**—keep slipping through fingers even though know something wrong); who do you know, what situation where can't move anyone—doesn't matter if you are right or not, they are not moving; THESE are the ones who are coming! <sup>v. 8</sup> military machine **Their horses are swifter than leopards** swift distance covered amazing **And keener than wolves in the evening.** Hungry—focused on prey—when others falling asleep, their keen senses will sniff out their prey **Their horsemen come galloping, Their horsemen come from afar;** spread out, not worried about their flank b/c SO powerful (ie. Tanks, submarines, jets) nothing stand against; **We've seen larger—Assyrians were big and mean—but we paid tribute and they left us alone;** Egypt big—they protected/will protect us--(**think how we've often felt in USA:** slow to be concerned about ruthless enemies, **why?** Over there, we have bigger, better, intelligence—most wars over there, but 9/11, subsequent terror attacks); **They fly like an eagle swooping down to devour.** Vulture—quick, keen eye, greedy to get prey and RIP it apart <sup>9</sup> "All of them come for violence. Their horde of faces moves forward. They collect captives like sand. Tough translation issues, but idea seems to be front flank assembles and moves forward—NOTHING STOPS THEM (like east wind coming from the desert, sweeps through and scorches land); <sup>v. 9</sup> purpose is violence—**ie.** City streets at night, group hanging around corner where only lamppost been knocked out by stones; **captives like sand**—little sympathy for individual—ALL affected—think of any books/movies about Holocaust—pleading got you nowhere); <sup>10</sup> "They mock at kings And rulers are a laughing matter to them. They laugh at every fortress And heap up rubble to capture it. —Judah been player at table, not biggest, but not mocked/could count on other nations protecting or that could appease enemies w tribute—walls mean nothing (little loss as barge through greatest defenses); "everyone should fear one in whom no fear exists" Bailey, p. 307 **ever** felt that any position you had just erased w look/word? <sup>v. 11</sup> machine that moves through like the wind—tornado—destruction and total life change are left **Sum up what you would see, think of, feel, value if you saw what was just described?** **Be astonished!** Startled & Amazed!!! **Wonder!** Idea of incredulity, disbelief, **What would be astonishing, wonder?** PROCESS what hearing; what holds attention? Tend to be the fierceness, swiftness, violence, destruction, **but what SHOULD they be**

astonished at? I AM DOING SOMETHING—process v. 6 Who march throughout the earth To seize dwelling places which are not theirs. interesting Deut. 6:10-12 same language—now the people of God promised the land, given it from Canaanites will give fruit of their work, years of roots to Chaldeans; 7 “They are dreaded not just bared teeth or crocodile, snort of warhorse, but refers to presence of God (Gen. 15:10-12, etc.); and feared; terrible wilderness/scorpions/fiery serpents/thirsty ground--but also word used when confronted w God Himself—Zeph. 2:10-11, Mal. 1:13-14, Ex. 34:10, Deut. 7:21 (not dread them, but awesome is same word for feared), Jacob Gen. 28:17; HERE, Chaldeans dreaded/feared! and they fear/ listen to NO ONE; Their justice and authority originate with themselves. don’t need anyone; all glory around them; what enables Christians to end up being their own authority?

Genesis 15:10–12 Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, and laid each half opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds. 11 The birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, and Abram drove them away. 12 Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, terror and great darkness fell upon him.

Genesis 28:17 He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

Deuteronomy 6:10–12 “Then it shall come about when the LORD your God brings you into the land which He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you, great and splendid cities which you did not build, 11 and houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and hewn cisterns which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and you eat and are satisfied, 12 then watch yourself, that you do not forget the LORD who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

Deuteronomy 7:21 “You shall not dread them, for the LORD your God is in your midst, a great and awesome God.

Deuteronomy 8:15 “He led you through the great and terrible wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water; He brought water for you out of the rock of flint.

Deuteronomy 28:41–45 “You shall have sons and daughters but they will not be yours, for they will go into captivity. 42 “The cricket shall possess all your trees and the produce of your ground. 43 “The alien who is among you shall rise above you higher and higher, but you will go down lower and lower; 44 “He shall lend to you, but you will not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you will be the tail. 45 “So all these curses shall come on you and pursue you and overtake you until you are destroyed, because you would not obey the LORD your God by keeping His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you.

Deuteronomy 28:49 “The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as the eagle swoops down, a nation whose language you shall not understand.

Zephaniah 2:10–11 This they will have in return for their pride, because they have taunted and become arrogant against the people of the LORD of hosts. 11 The LORD will be terrifying to them, for He will starve all the gods of the earth; and all the coastlands of the nations will bow down to Him, everyone from his own place.

Malachi 1:13–14 “You also say, ‘My, how tiresome it is!’ And you disdainfully sniff at it,” says the LORD of hosts, “and you bring what was taken by robbery and what is lame or sick; so you bring the offering! Should I receive that from your hand?” says the LORD. 14 “But cursed be the swindler who has a male in his flock and vows it, but sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord, for I am a great King,” says the LORD of hosts, “and My name is feared among the nations.”

Galatians 5:13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.