

A hand is shown in silhouette, reaching upwards with fingers spread, against a bright, cloudy sky. The sky is filled with soft, white and yellow clouds, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is one of awe and wonder.

Be *Amazed*

Habakkuk

Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore
BibleStudyDownloads.org

don't



What I know.

abbreviate.

pronunciation.



PRONUNCIATION



pro-noun-cia-shun



pro-nun-cia-shun

How long, O Lord?



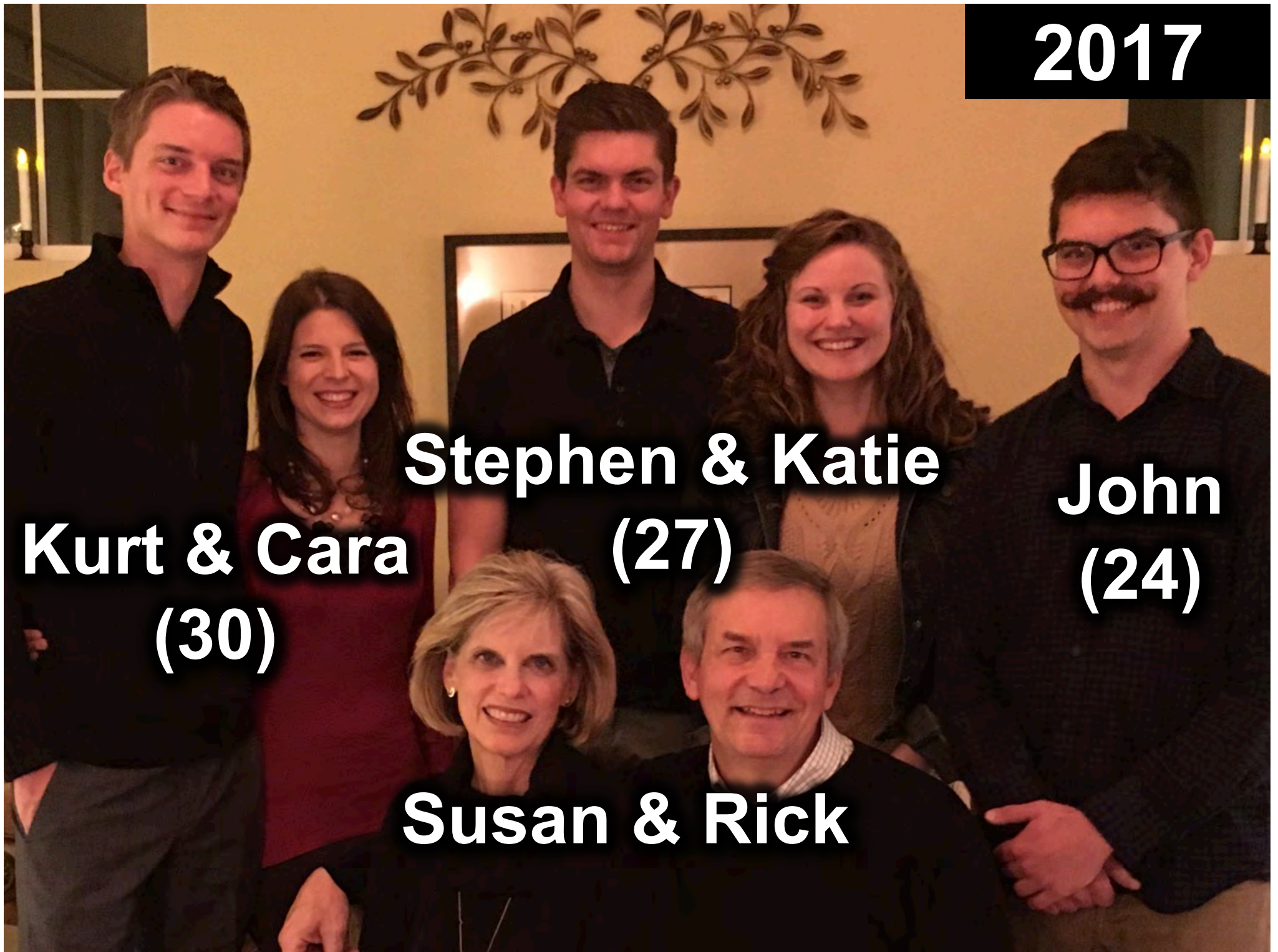
2017

**Kurt & Cara
(30)**

**Stephen & Katie
(27)**

**John
(24)**

Susan & Rick



**Why do the wicked
prosper?**

**“Behold, these are the wicked;
always at ease, they increase in riches”
(Psalm 73:12).**





**The More I Think,
The More Confused I Get**

Perplexed?



A blue speech bubble with a tail pointing towards the top left corner of the image.

He answers.

**Habakkuk is the
only prophet whose
entire book is a
dialogue with God.**

**If you could
converse with
God, what would
you ask Him?**

A cyan speech bubble with a tail pointing towards the bottom right corner of the image.

You ask.

GODLY

Mothers



The Foundation of Biblical Wisdom

PROVERBS 22:6

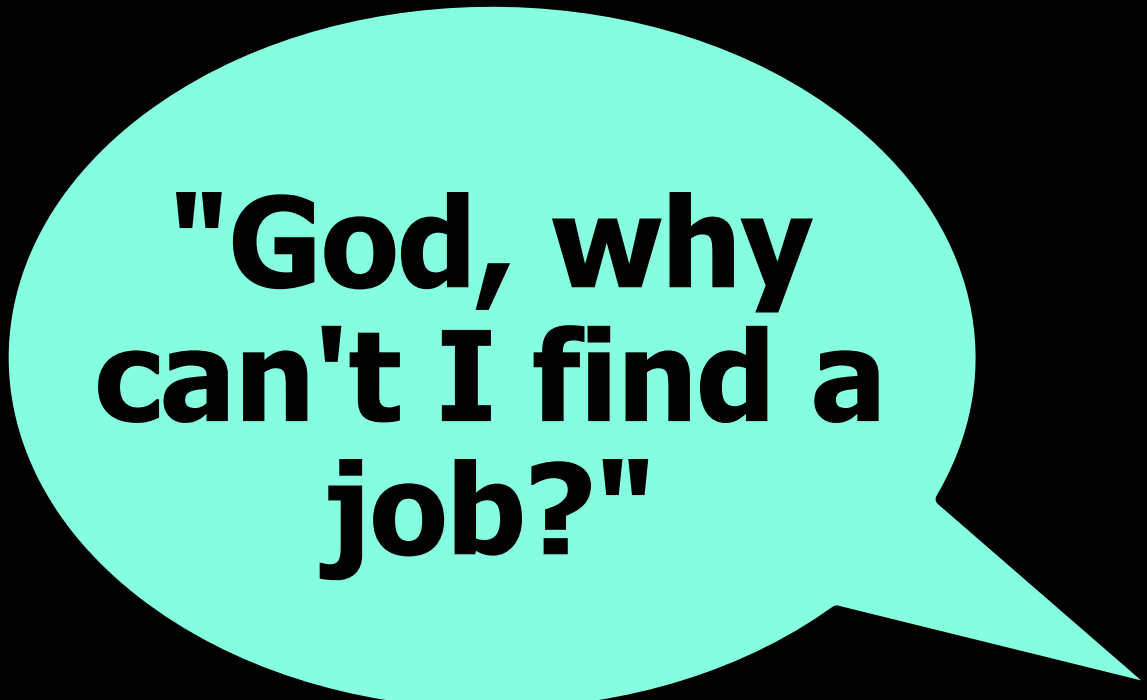


"Trust Me."

**"God, why did
you take my
mother?"**



(No answer)



**"God, why
can't I find a
job?"**

Why so much injustice?

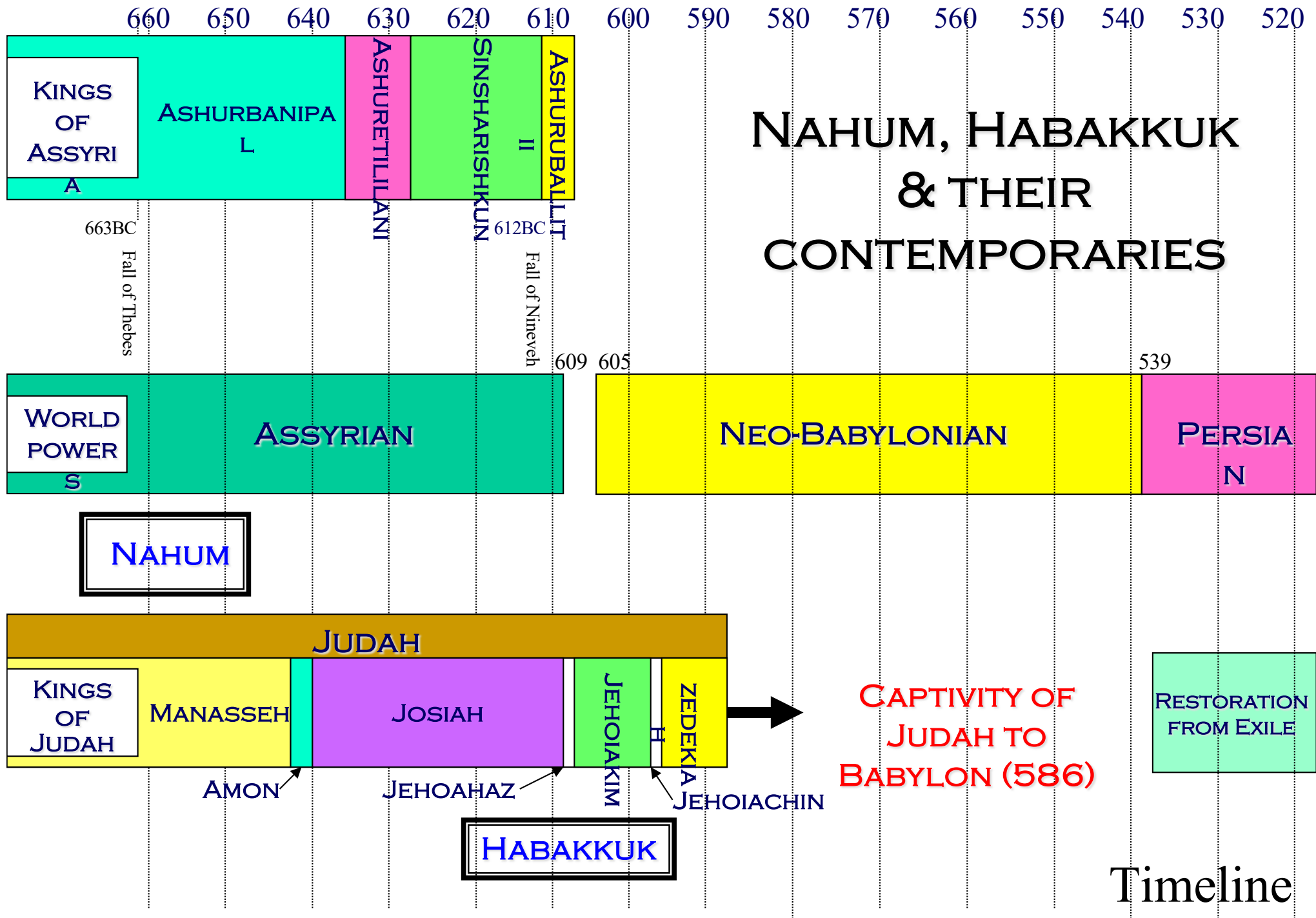


رعيا الصليب من أتباع الكنيسة المصرية المحاربة

The people of the cross, the followers of the hostile Egyptian Church

How should we deal with
life when **perplexed**?





Habakkuk 1

"This is the message that the prophet Habakkuk received in a vision" (1:1 NLT).

**—No reign of a king of Judah or Israel
—So how can we date the book?**



Date

HABAKKUK

which Habakkuk the
ee. long shall I cry,
ow long shall I cry out
leopards, and are
evening wolves: m
shall spread
horsemen th an

The time of the writing of is debated from:

- 700 BC (too early since Assyrians are in view)
- 300 BC (too late since Greek forces are in view)

The prophecy names Babylonian invaders (1:6) so it was likely written near the end of Josiah's reign (640-609 BC), probably after the 612 BC destruction of Nineveh by the combined forces of the Babylonians, Medians, and Scythians. This time was 607-605 BC.

An Evil End to Judah

256

1

Josiah

640-609
(31 yrs.)

Good king in white
Evil kings in yellow

3

**Jehoiakim
(Eliakim)**

609-597
(11 yrs.)

2

**Jehoahaz
(Shallum)**

609
(3 mos.)

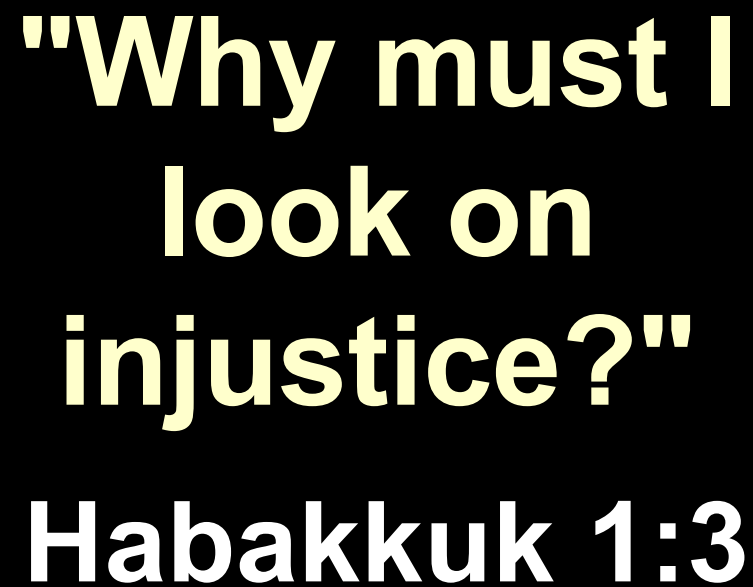


image attributed to him: <http://www.worlds.net>

Habakkuk: Babylon's Destruction 627

Habakkuk: Babylon's Destruction 627

Chapters 1–2				Chapter 3		
Punishment of Babylon				Praise Song		
Habakkuk's Perplexity				Habakkuk's Praise		
God's Actions Challenged				God's Actions Commended		
Faith Troubled				Faith Triumphant		
Problem				Resolution		
Habakkuk	God	Habakkuk	God	Habakkuk		
Why aren't you judging Judah's sin, God?	I will. I'll judge Judah with the Babylonians!	But can you use a nation more wicked than Judah?	Sure, but I'll judge them too.	In wrath remember mercy.	Our God is an awesome God!	I'll wait patiently for Babylon's judgment and rejoice in God.
1:1-4	1:5-11	1:12–2:1	2:2-20	3:1-2	3:3-15	3:16-19
Judah						
c. 607-605 BC						

I. We're often utterly **perplexed**
at God's plan.



Who was causing the
injustice?

**Was it pagans (expected) or
God's people (prohibited)?**

An Evil End to Judah

1
Josiah
640-609
(31 yrs.)

Good king in white
Evil kings in yellow

3
Jehoiakim
(Eliakim)
609-597
(11 yrs.)

2
Jehoahaz
(Shallum)
609
(3 mos.)

Evil kings caused the prophet's first perplexity:
"How long, O LORD, must I call for help, but you
do not listen? Or cry out to you, 'Violence!' but
you do not save?" (Hab. 1:2).

**"Must I forever see these evil deeds?
Why must I watch all this misery?**

**Wherever I look,
I see destruction and violence.
I am surrounded by people
who love to argue and fight.**

**⁴ The law has become paralyzed,
and there is no justice in the courts.
The wicked far outnumber the righteous,
so that justice has become perverted"
(1:3-4 NLT).**

Recipients

628


Live by Faith

Habakkuk

While the prophecy concerned Babylon, it was directed towards the people of Judah.

Why is injustice often
committed by
God's people
more than by
pagans?

**How would you answer this
question?**



**How should we deal with
injustice right inside the
family of faith?**

**Have faith that God will address this
issue in his time and way.**

Key Word for Habakkuk: Faith

Habakkuk 1:5-11: God's Unexpected Response

- I will use the Chaldeans (Babylonians) to punish the ungodly nation of Israel.



**"The LORD replied,
'Look around at the
nations;
look and be amazed!
For I am doing something
in your own day,
something you wouldn't
believe
even if someone told you
about it'"
(1:5 NLT).**



Habakkuk 1:6

"I am raising up the Babylonians, that ruthless and impetuous people, who sweep across the whole earth to seize dwelling places not their own."



HABAKKUK

[illegible]

Habakkuk: Babylon's Destruction 627

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Why aren't you judging Judah's sin, God?	I will. I'll judge Judah with the Babylonians!	But can you use a nation more wicked than Judah?	Sure, but I'll judge them too.	In wrath remember mercy.	Our God is an awesome God!	I'll wait patiently for Babylon's judgment and rejoice in God.
1:1-4	1:5-11	1:12–2:1	2:2-20	3:1-2	3:3-15	3:16-19
Judah						
c. 607-605 BC						

**"They are notorious for their cruelty
and do whatever they like.**

**⁸ Their horses are
swifter than
cheetahs
and fiercer than
wolves at dusk.
Their charioteers
charge from far
away.**

**Like eagles, they
swoop down to
devour their prey"
(1:7-8 NLT).**

**"On they come, all bent on violence.
Their hordes advance like a desert wind,
sweeping captives ahead of them like
sand.**

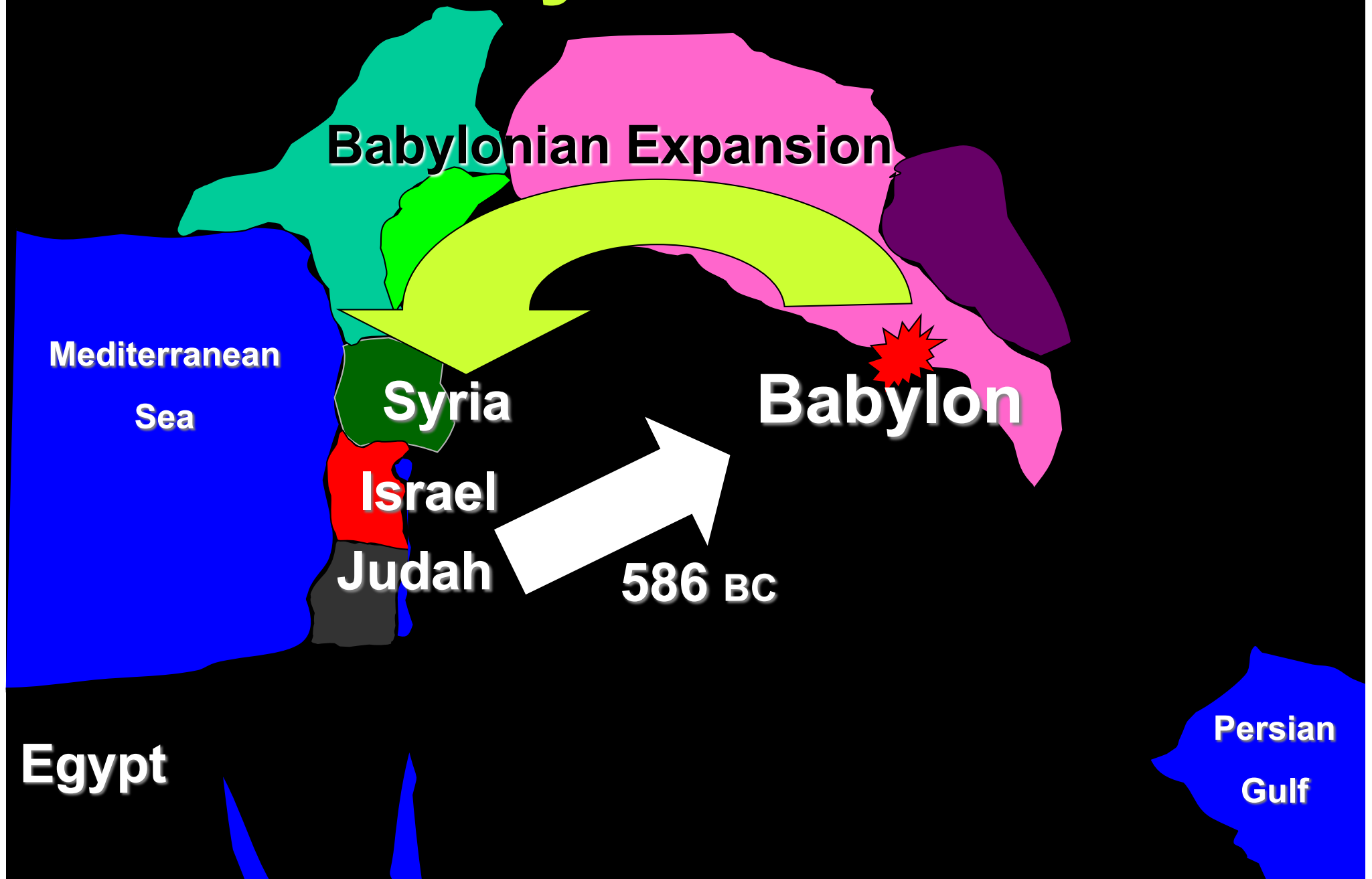
**¹⁰ They scoff at kings and princes
and scorn all their fortresses.**

**They simply pile ramps of earth
against their walls and capture them!"
(1:9-10 NLT).**

**"They sweep past like the wind
and are gone. But they are deeply guilty,
for their own strength is their god"
(1:11 NLT).**

**"O LORD my God, my Holy One, you who
are eternal—
surely you do not plan to wipe us out?
O LORD, our Rock, you have sent these
Babylonians to correct us,
to punish us for our many sins"
(1:12 NLT).**

The Babylonian Threat

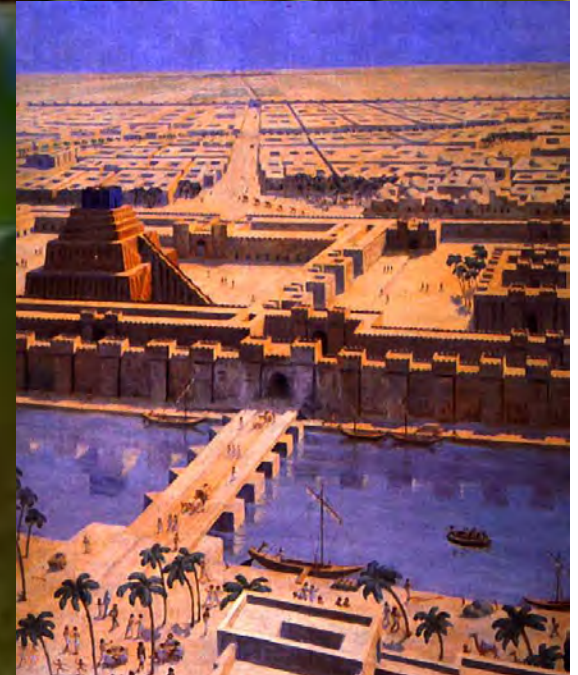
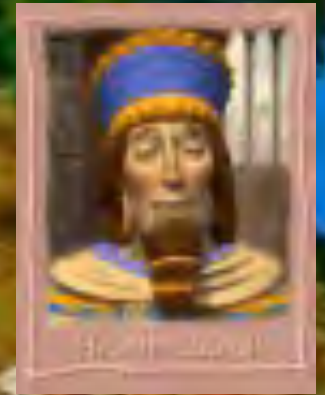


The Babylonians

(Neo-Babylonian Empire)

625-539 BC

Babylonia



Ancient Near East

Dominant Peoples in Mesopotamian History

Proto-Literate
Early Mesopotamian

**Neo-Babylonian
625-539 BC**

Neo-Assyrian (1362-1078)
Achaemenian & Chaldean (1078-935)
Neo-Assyrian (935-612)
Neo Babylonian (625-539)
Persian (539-332)
Alexander (332-)

Habakkuk 1:13 NLT

"But you are pure and cannot stand the sight of evil. Will you wink at their treachery? Should you be silent while the wicked swallow up people more righteous than they?"



Marina Bay



**How would the LORD
do the same today?**

**I will. I will have
ISIS destroy
the city.**

**God, punish the
injustice in
Singapore!**



**"Are we only fish to be
caught and killed?
Are we only sea creatures
that have no leader?
¹⁵ Must we be strung up on
their hooks
and caught in their nets
while they rejoice and
celebrate?"
(1:14-15 NLT).**

Self-Made Idols Are Useless

Babylon & Us



**"Then they will worship their nets
and burn incense in front of them.**

**'These nets are the gods who have
made us rich!' they will claim.**

**¹⁷ Will you let them get away with this
forever? Will they succeed forever in
their heartless conquests?"**

(Hab 1:16-17 NLT).

Habakkuk 2

Waiting for an Answer (Hab. 2:1 NLT)



**"I will stand on my
guard post And
station myself on
the rampart; And I
will keep watch to
see what He will
speak to me, And
how I may reply
when I am
reproved."**

Getting an Answer (Hab. 2:2 NLT)

**"Then the LORD
said to me,
'Write my answer
plainly on tablets,
so that a runner can
carry the correct
message to
others.'"**



Habakkuk 2:3

FOR STILL THE VISION AWAITS ITS APPOINTED
TIME: IT HASTENS TO THE END—IT WILL NOT LIE.

*If it
seems
slow,*

WAIT FOR IT:

IT WILL SURELY COME; IT WILL NOT DELAY

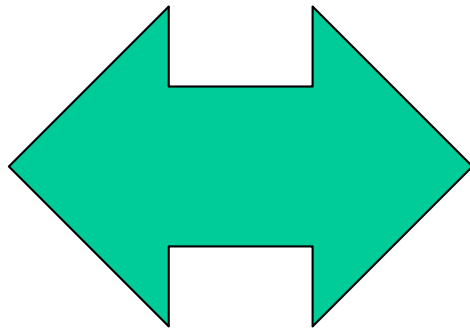
Habakkuk

2:3

The **Heart** of the Oracle (2:4)

God contrasts

the demise
of the
proud,
debauched,
greedy,
bloodthirsty
Babylonians



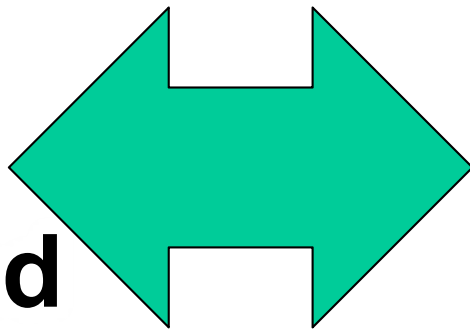
with the
preservation
of the
righteous
remnant of
Judah

to encourage His people to trust Him

The **Heart** of the Oracle (2:4)

The contrast:

**"Look at the
proud!
They trust in
themselves, and
their lives are
crooked."**



**But the
righteous will
live by their
faithfulness
to God"
(NLT).**

**"Wealth is treacherous,
and the arrogant are never at rest.
They open their mouths as wide as the
grave, and like death, they are never
satisfied. In their greed they have
gathered up many nations
and swallowed many peoples"
(2:5 NLT).**

5 WOES

1. GREED (2:6-8)

Habakkuk



"But soon their captives will taunt them.

They will mock them, saying,

'What sorrow awaits you thieves!

Now you will get what you deserve!

You've become rich by extortion,

but how much longer can this go on?'

⁷ Suddenly, your debtors will take action.

They will turn on you and take all you

have, while you stand trembling and

helpless" (2:6-7 NLT).

"Because you have plundered many nations; now all the survivors will plunder you.

You committed murder throughout the countryside and filled the towns with violence" (2:8 NLT).

Habakkuk 2:9

**"Woe to him who
builds his realm by
unjust gain to set
his nest on high, to
escape the clutches
of ruin!"**

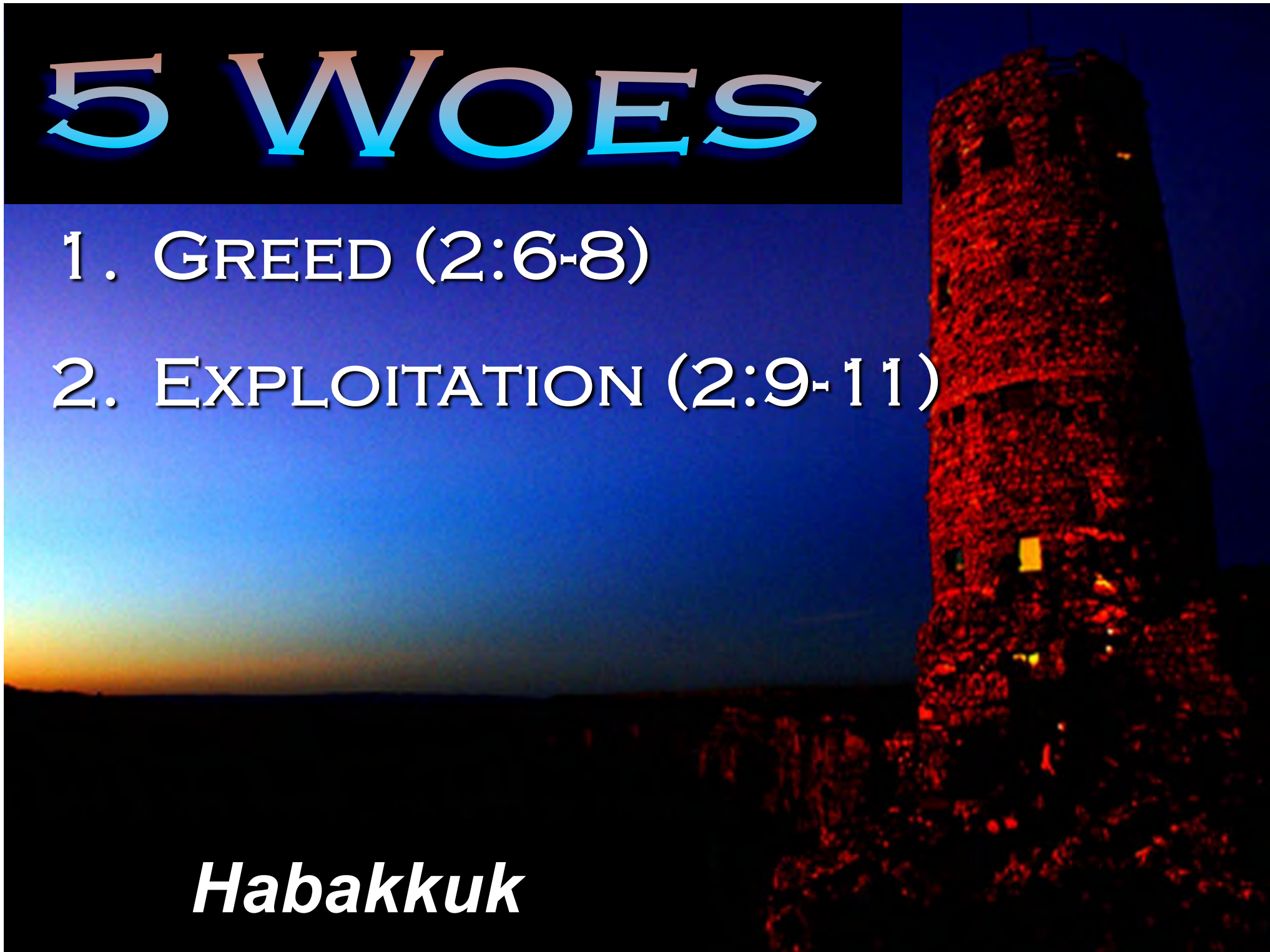


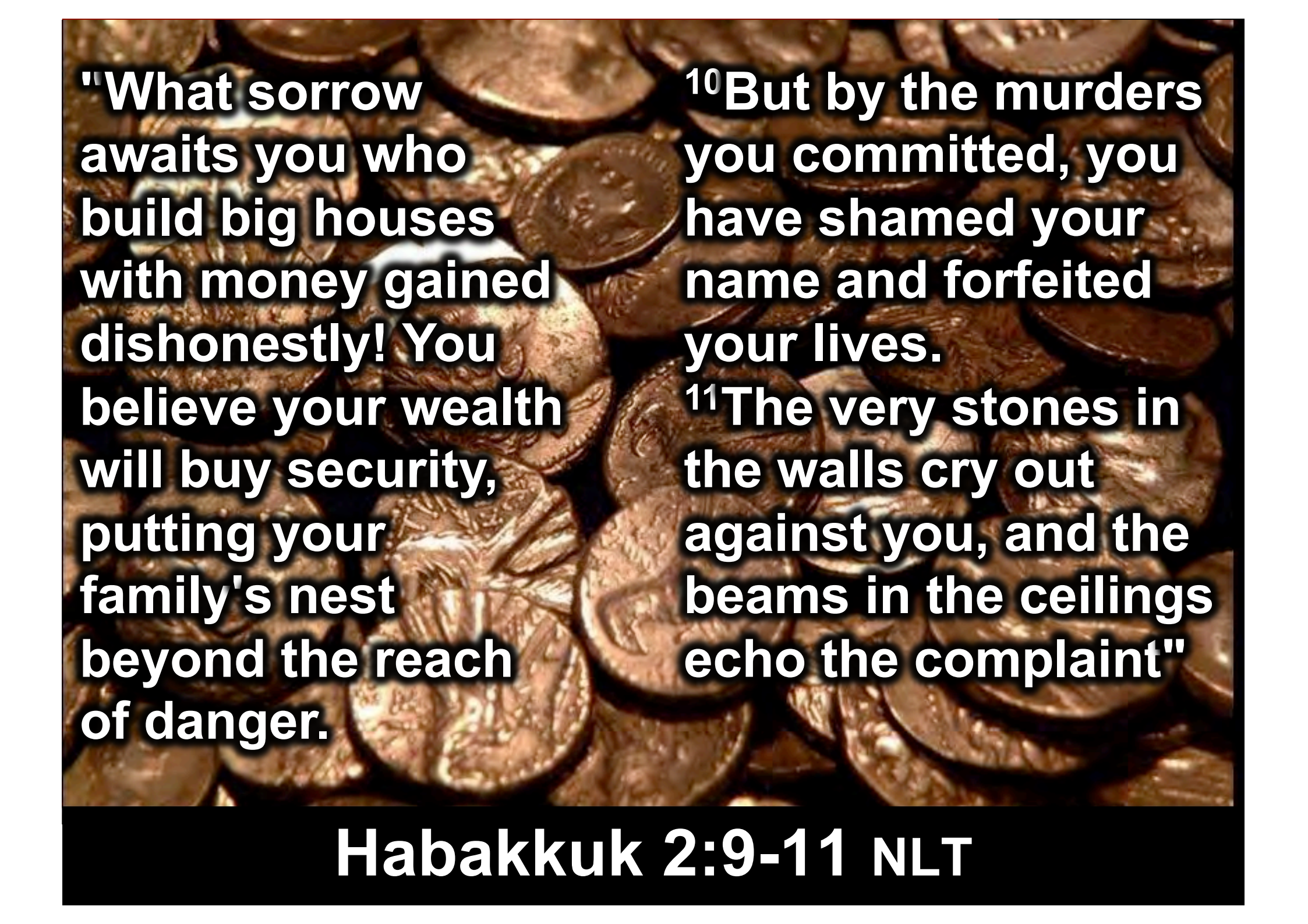
5 WOES

1. GREED (2:6-8)

2. EXPLOITATION (2:9-11)

Habakkuk





"What sorrow awaits you who build big houses with money gained dishonestly! You believe your wealth will buy security, putting your family's nest beyond the reach of danger.

¹⁰But by the murders you committed, you have shamed your name and forfeited your lives.

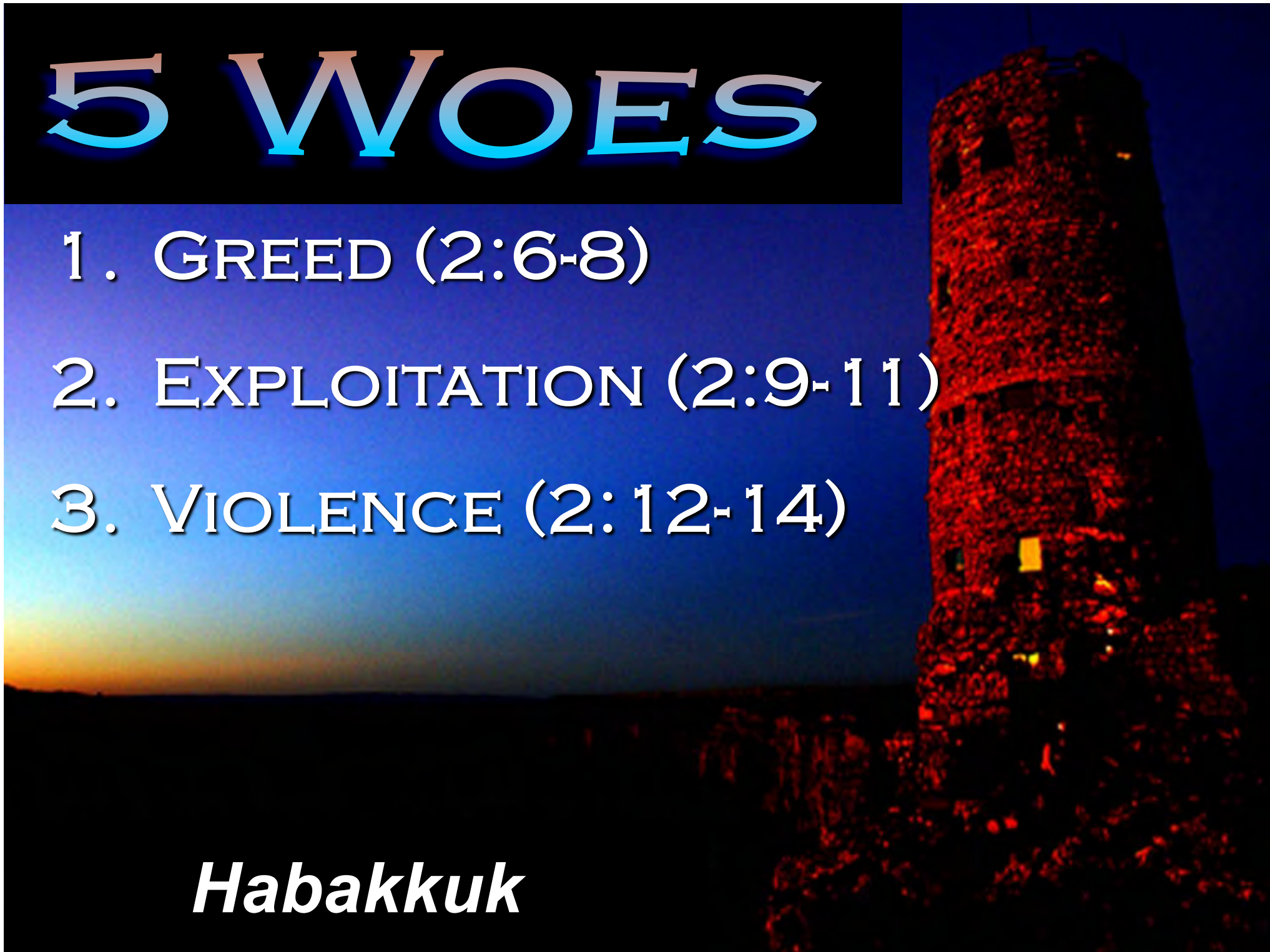
¹¹The very stones in the walls cry out against you, and the beams in the ceilings echo the complaint"

Habakkuk 2:9-11 NLT

5 WOES

1. GREED (2:6-8)
2. EXPLOITATION (2:9-11)
3. VIOLENCE (2:12-14)

Habakkuk



**"What sorrow awaits you
who build cities with
money gained through
murder and corruption!**

**¹³Has not the LORD of Heaven's
Armies promised that the wealth of
nations will turn to ashes?
They work so hard, but all in vain!"**



Habakkuk 2:12-13 NLT



**"For the earth shall be filled with the
knowledge of the LORD, as the waters
cover the sea."
– Habakkuk 2:14**

**"Ask of me,
and I will make
the nations your
inheritance,
the ends of the
earth your
possession."**

Ps. 2:8 NLT



Habakkuk 2:14 = Psalm 2:8?

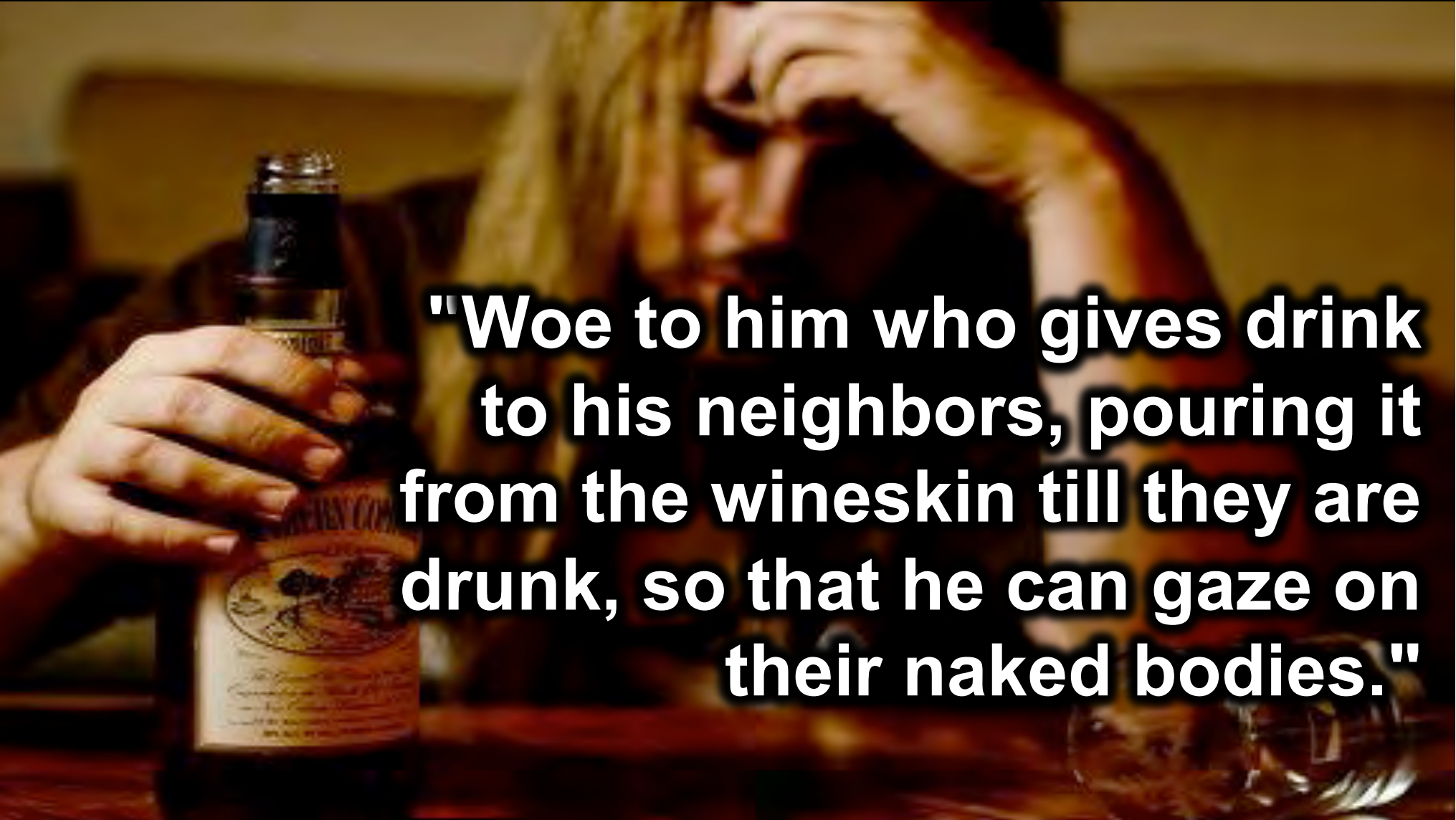
5 WOES

1. GREED (2:6-8)
2. EXPLOITATION (2:9-11)
3. VIOLENCE (2:12-14)
4. IMMORALITY (2:15-17)

Habakkuk



Habakkuk 2:15

A close-up photograph of a person's hands pouring a dark liquid, likely wine, from a bottle into a glass. The person has long, light-colored hair. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a dining or living area with warm lighting. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**"Woe to him who gives drink
to his neighbors, pouring it
from the wineskin till they are
drunk, so that he can gaze on
their naked bodies."**

Habakkuk 2:16

**"But soon it
will be your
turn to be
disgraced.
Come, drink
and be
exposed!"**

**Drink from the
cup of the
LORD's
judgment, and
all your glory
will be turned to
shame."**





Habakkuk 2:17

**"You cut down the forests of Lebanon.
Now you will be cut down. You
destroyed the wild animals, so now
their terror will be yours. You committed
murder throughout the countryside and
filled the towns with violence."**

5 WOES

1. GREED (2:6-8)
2. EXPLOITATION (2:9-11)
3. VIOLENCE (2:12-14)
4. IMMORALITY (2:15-17)
5. IDOLATRY (2:18-20)

Habakkuk



**"What good is an idol
carved by man,
or a cast image that
deceives you?
How foolish to trust
in your own
creation—a god that
can't even talk!" (2:18
NLT).**





**"What sorrow awaits
you who say to wooden
idols, 'Wake up and
save us!' To speechless
stone images you say,
'Rise up and teach us!'**

**Can an idol tell you
what to do? They may
be overlaid with gold
and silver, but they are
lifeless inside"**

(2:19 NLT).

**"But the LORD is in his holy Temple.
Let all the earth be silent before him."**

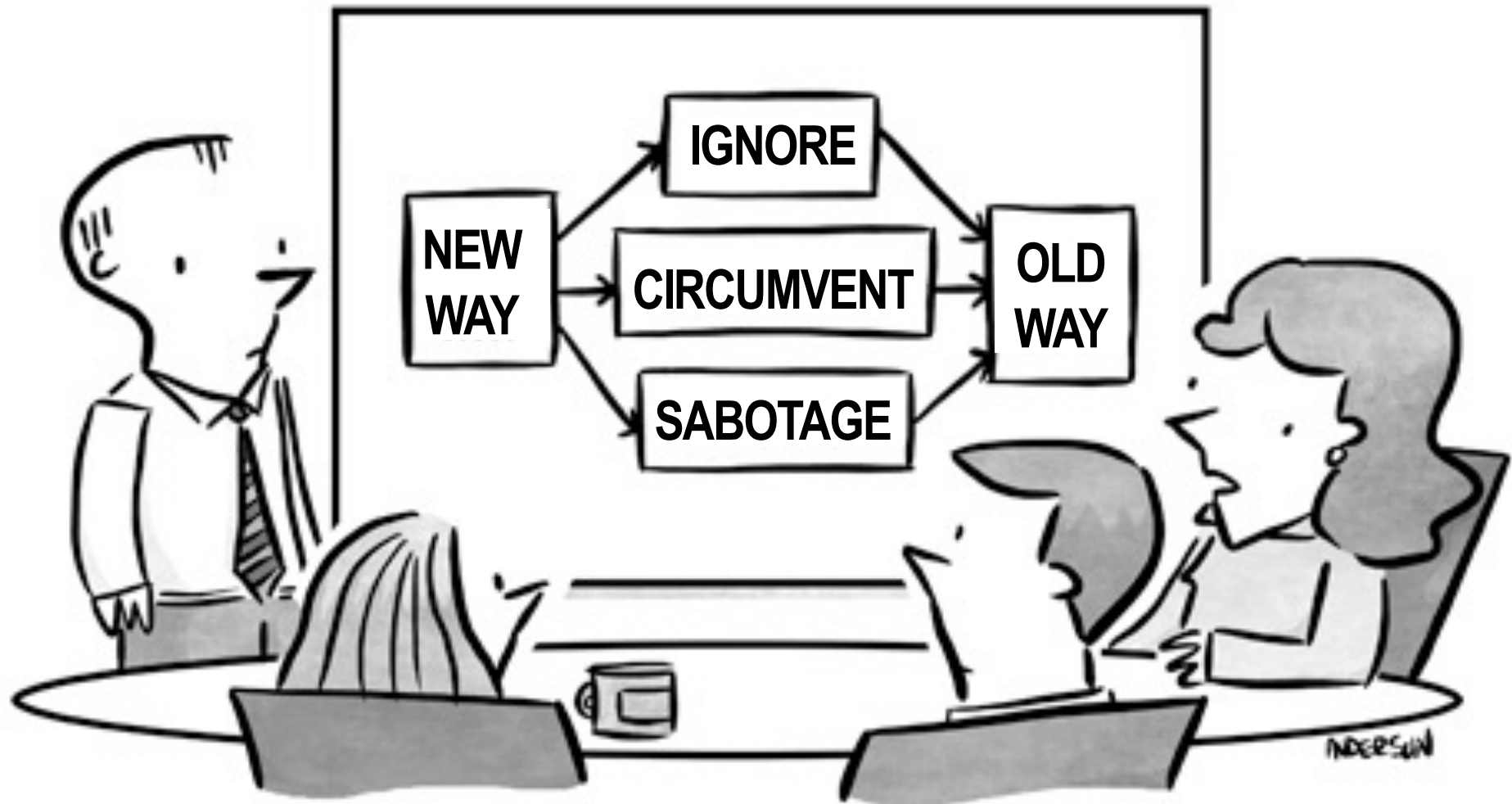


Habakkuk 2:20

**We also have a lot of things that
we can't grasp.**



Which came first?



"So business as usual."



"Are you in the mood to be amazed?"

How should we deal with
life when **perplexed**?



I. We're often utterly **perplexed**
at God's plan.



II. When perplexed, be
amazed with God's ways
(Main Idea).



Habakkuk 3

Habakkuk: Babylon's Destruction

627

Chapters 1–2				Chapter 3		
Punishment of Babylon				Praise Song		
Habakkuk's Perplexity				Habakkuk's Praise		
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Habakkuk	God	Habakkuk	God	Habakkuk		
Why aren't you judging Judah's sin, God?	I will. I'll judge Judah with the Babylonians!	But can you use a nation more wicked than Judah?	Sure, but I'll judge them too.	In wrath remember mercy.	Our God is an awesome God!	I'll wait patiently for Babylon's judgment and rejoice in God.
1:1-4	1:5-11	1:12–2:1	2:2-20	3:1-2	3:3-15	3:16-19
Judah						
c. 607-605 BC						

Habakkuk 3

The Prophet's Hope



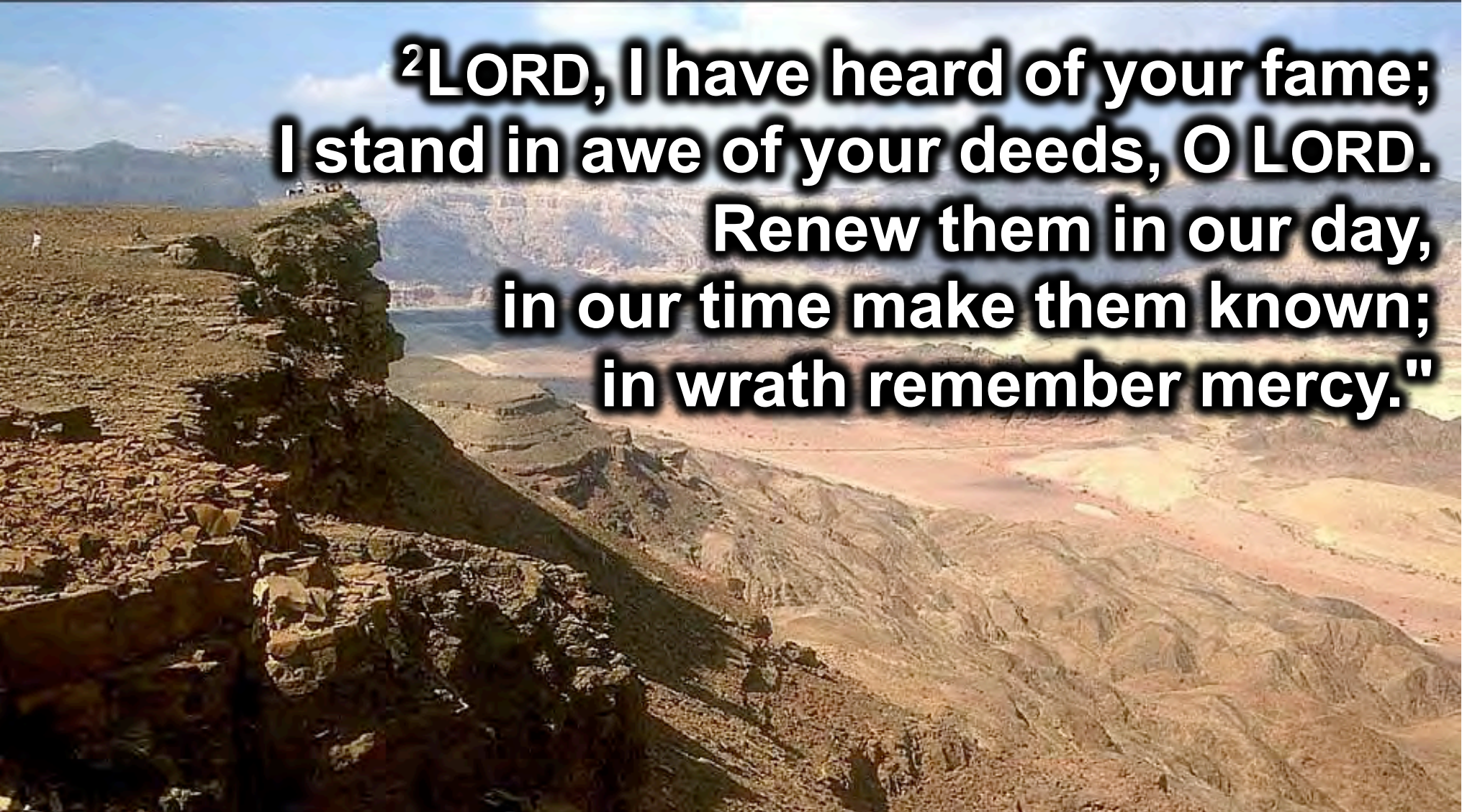
The Answer to "Why" is....

"Who"



Habakkuk 3:1-2

"A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet.
On *shigionoth*."



²LORD, I have heard of your fame;
I stand in awe of your deeds, O LORD.
Renew them in our day,
in our time make them known;
in wrath remember mercy."

A close-up, blurred image of a person's ear and hand, with text overlaid. The background is a soft-focus photograph of a person's ear and hand, possibly in a gesture of prayer or listening. The text is white with a black outline, making it stand out against the background.

**"I have heard all about you,
LORD.**

**I am filled with awe by your
amazing works.**

**In this time of our deep need,
help us again as you did in
years gone by.**


**And in your anger,
remember your mercy"
(3:2 NLT).**

**"I see God moving
across the deserts
from Edom, the
Holy One coming
from Mount Paran.
His brilliant
splendor fills the
heavens,
and the earth is
filled with his
praise" (3:3 NLT).**

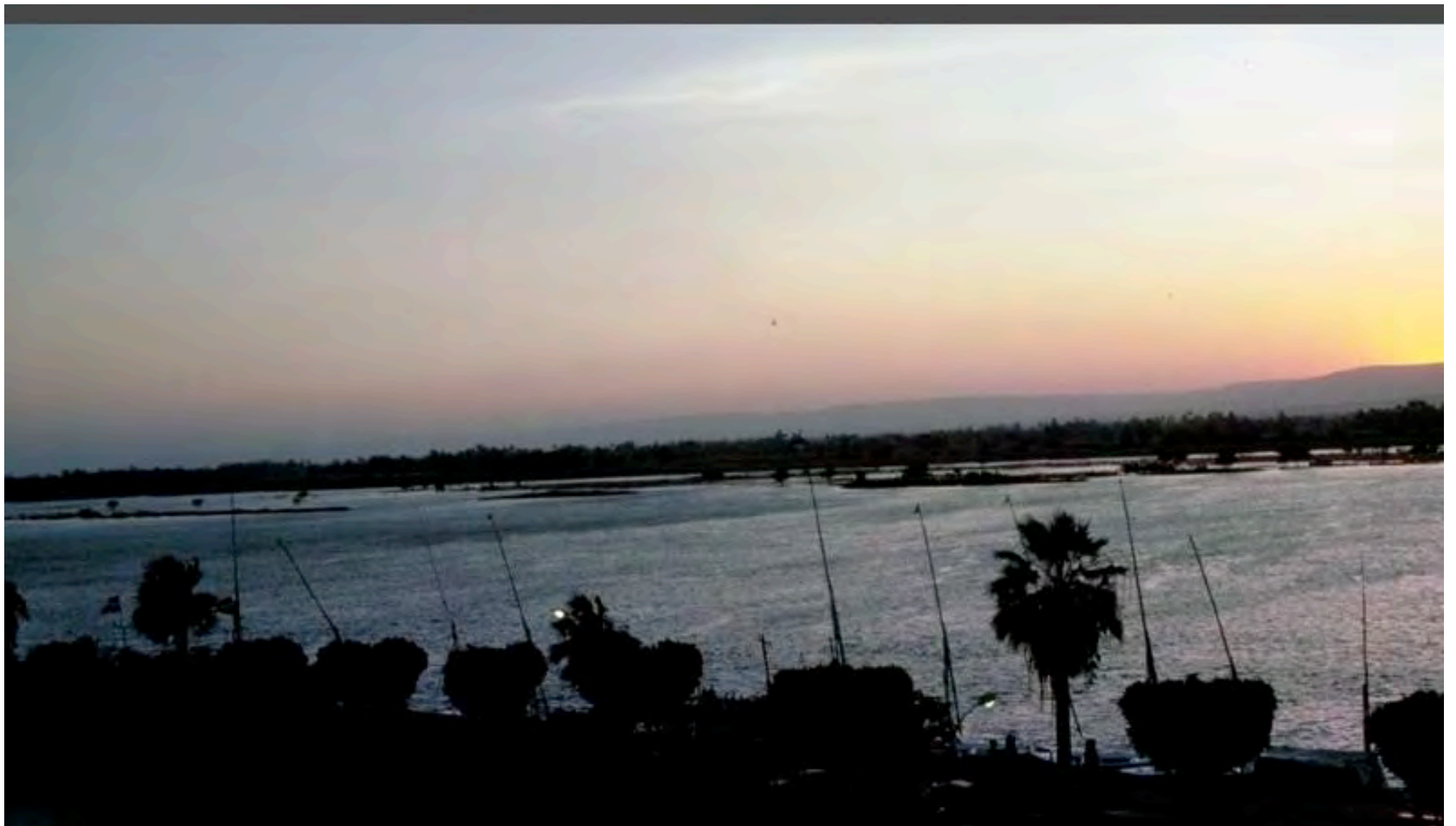


Judah

Edom



**"His coming is as brilliant as the sunrise.
Rays of light flash from his hands,
where his awesome power is hidden"
(3:4 NLT).**



**"Pestilence marches before him;
plague follows close behind" (3:5 NLT).**

**"When he stops, the earth shakes.
When he looks, the nations tremble.
He shatters the everlasting mountains
and levels the eternal hills.
He is the Eternal One!" (3:6 NLT).**

**"I see the people of Cushan in
distress, and the nation of
Midian trembling in terror"
(3:7 NLT).**

Cushan

**Mt.
Sinai**

Midian

The Sea

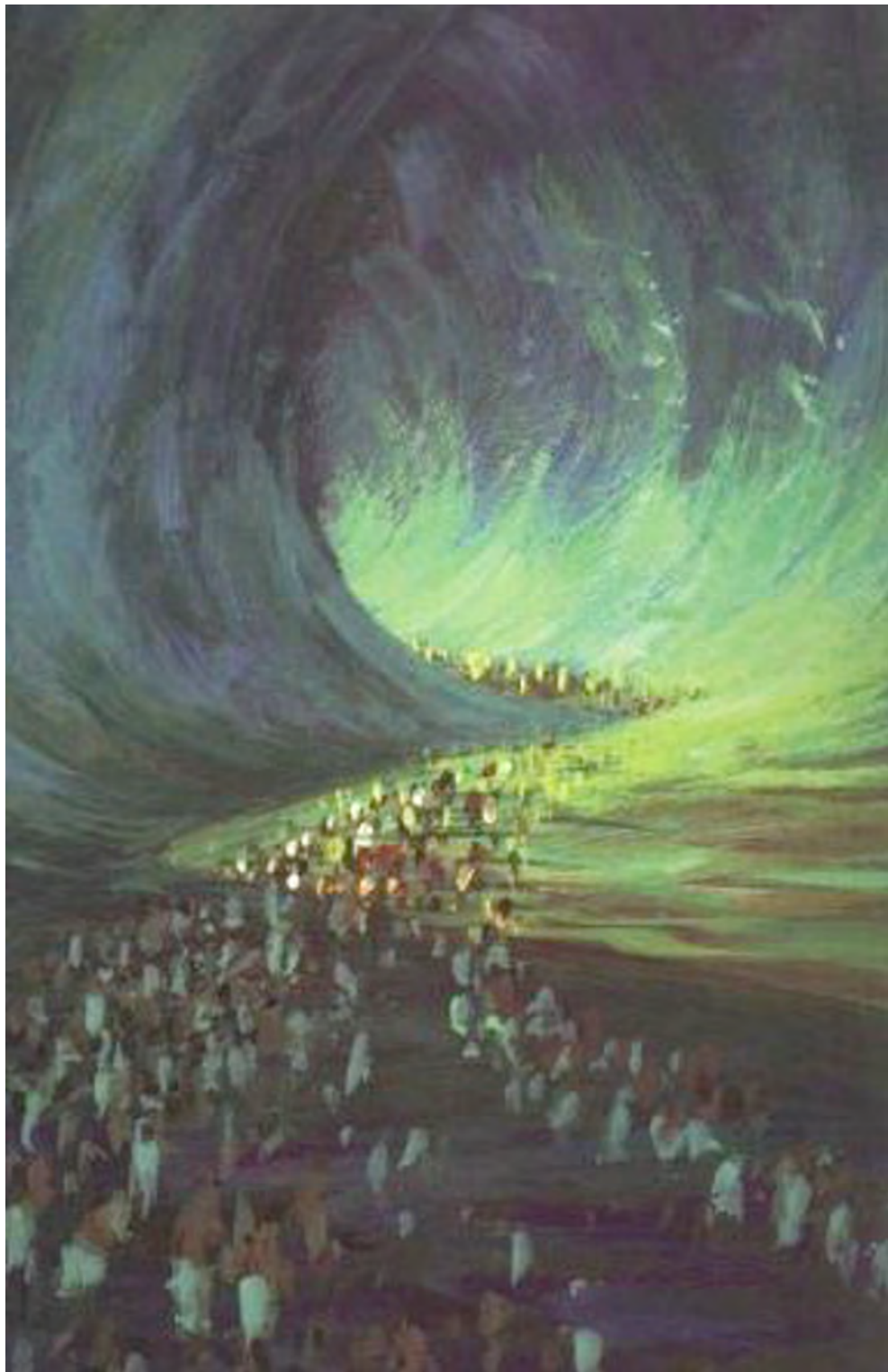


The Leader



Exodus 12

כִּי־יֵצֵא מִצְרָיִם חֹסֵי חַיִּים לְפָנָיו וְיִפְתָּח וְיִשְׁעָאֵלֶם



**"Was it in anger,
LORD, that you
struck the rivers
and parted the sea?
Were you
displeased with
them?
No, you were
sending your
chariots of
salvation!"
(3:8 NLT).**

**"You brandished your bow
and your quiver of arrows.
You split open the earth with flowing
rivers.**

**¹⁰ The mountains watched and trembled.
Onward swept the raging waters.
The mighty deep cried out,
lifting its hands to the LORD"
(3:9-10 NLT).**

**"The sun and moon stood still in
the sky as your brilliant arrows
flew and your glittering spear
flashed" (3:11 NLT).**

**"You marched across the land
in anger and trampled the
nations in your fury.**

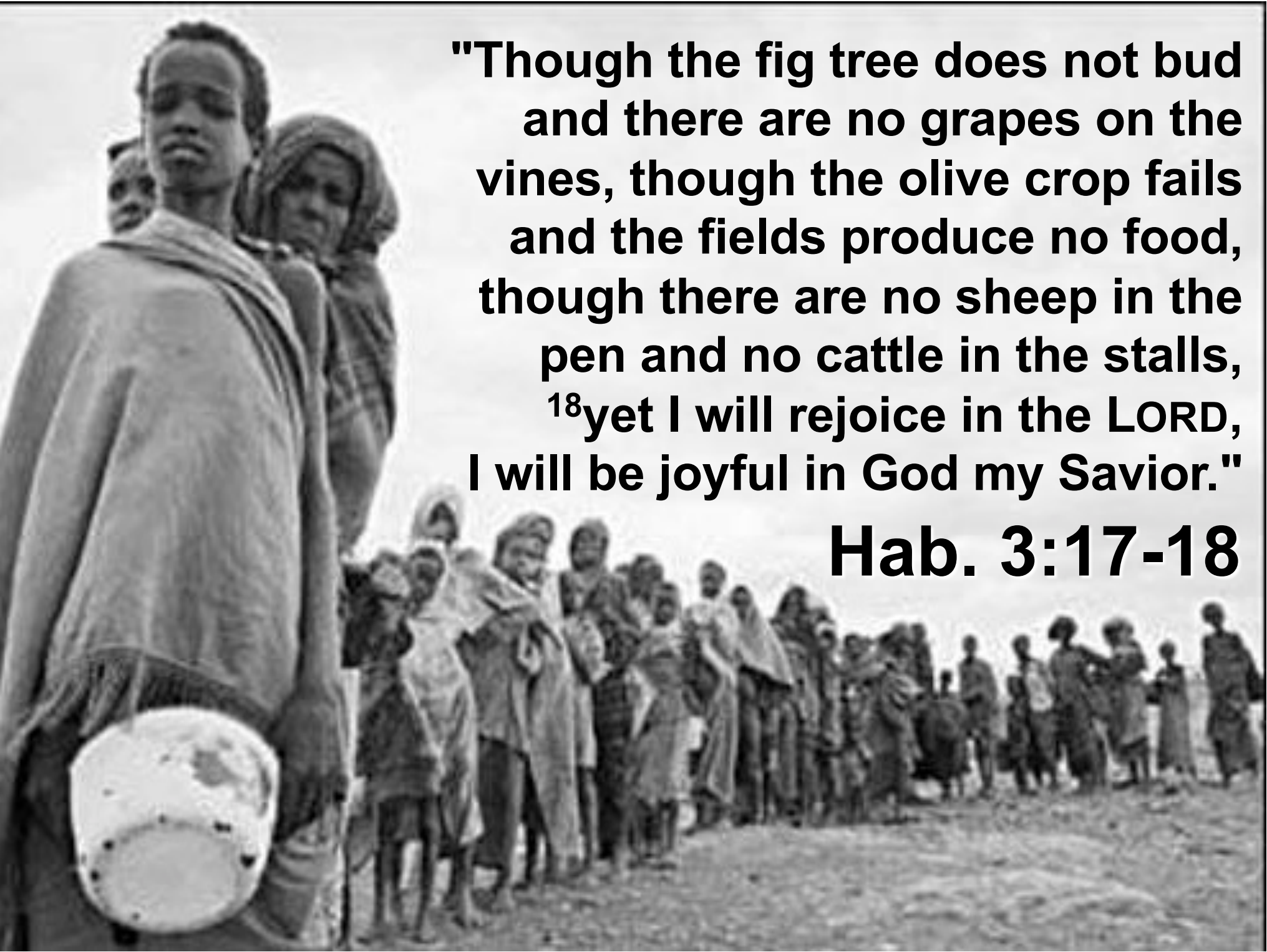
**¹³ You went out to rescue your
chosen people, to save your
anoointed ones. You crushed the
heads of the wicked and
stripped their bones from head
to toe" (3:12-13 NLT).**

**"With his own weapons,
you destroyed the chief of those
who rushed out like a whirlwind,
thinking Israel would be easy prey.
¹⁵ You trampled the sea with your horses,
and the mighty waters piled high"
(3:14-15 NLT).**

**"I trembled inside when I heard this;
my lips quivered with fear.
My legs gave way beneath me,
and I shook in terror.
I will wait quietly for the coming day
when disaster will strike the people who
invade us" (3:16 NLT).**

Habakkuk 3:17 Expected Budding





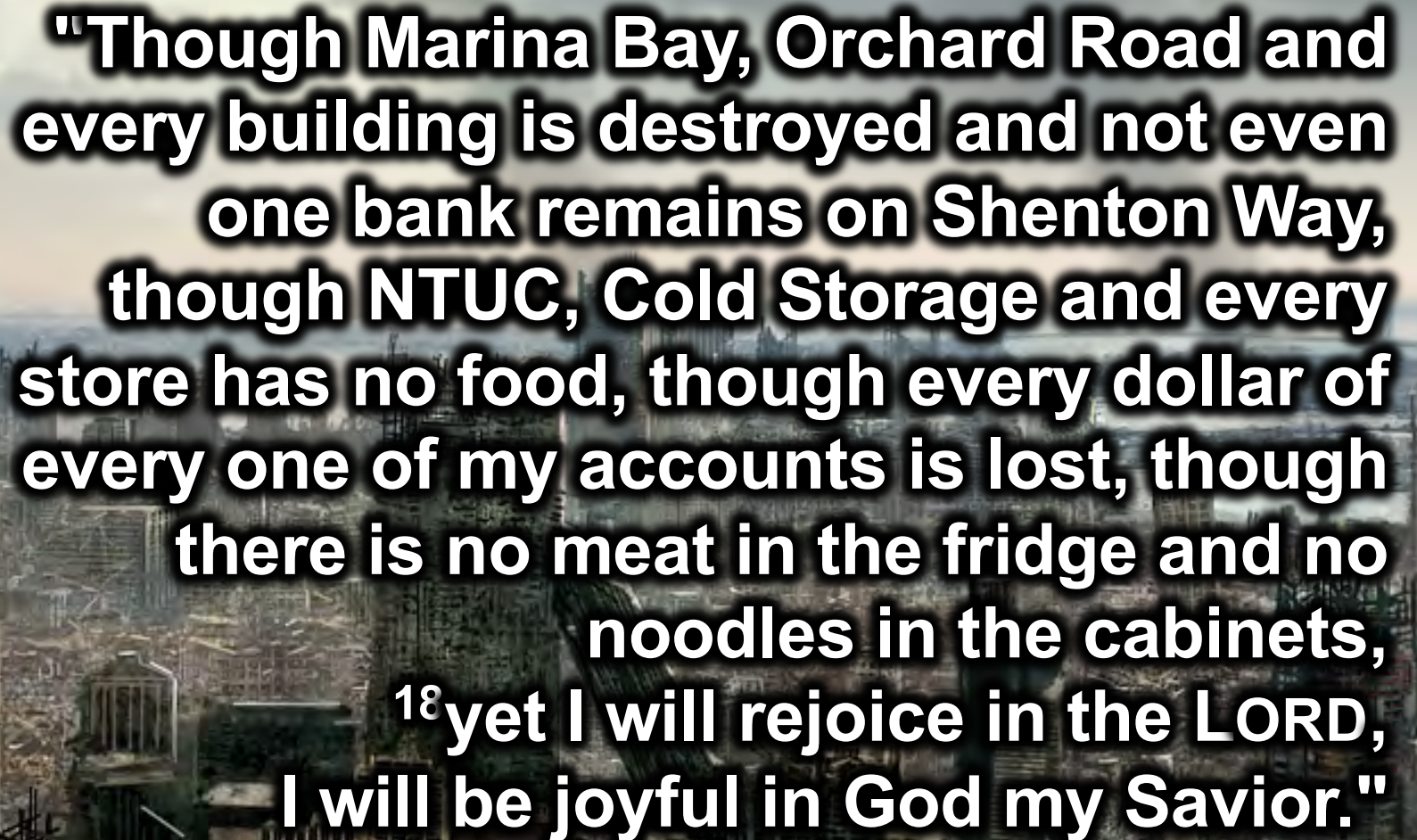
**"Though the fig tree does not bud
and there are no grapes on the
vines, though the olive crop fails
and the fields produce no food,
though there are no sheep in the
pen and no cattle in the stalls,
¹⁸yet I will rejoice in the LORD,
I will be joyful in God my Savior."**

Hab. 3:17-18

The Glory of Singapore



The Destruction of Singapore



**"Though Marina Bay, Orchard Road and every building is destroyed and not even one bank remains on Shenton Way, though NTUC, Cold Storage and every store has no food, though every dollar of every one of my accounts is lost, though there is no meat in the fridge and no noodles in the cabinets,
¹⁸yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior."**

Hesitations 3:17-18

Habakkuk 3:18

**"yet I will rejoice
in the LORD,
I will be joyful in
God my Savior."**





**"The Sovereign LORD is my strength;
He makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
He enables me to go on the heights."
– Habakkuk 3:19**

Belshazzar Humbled

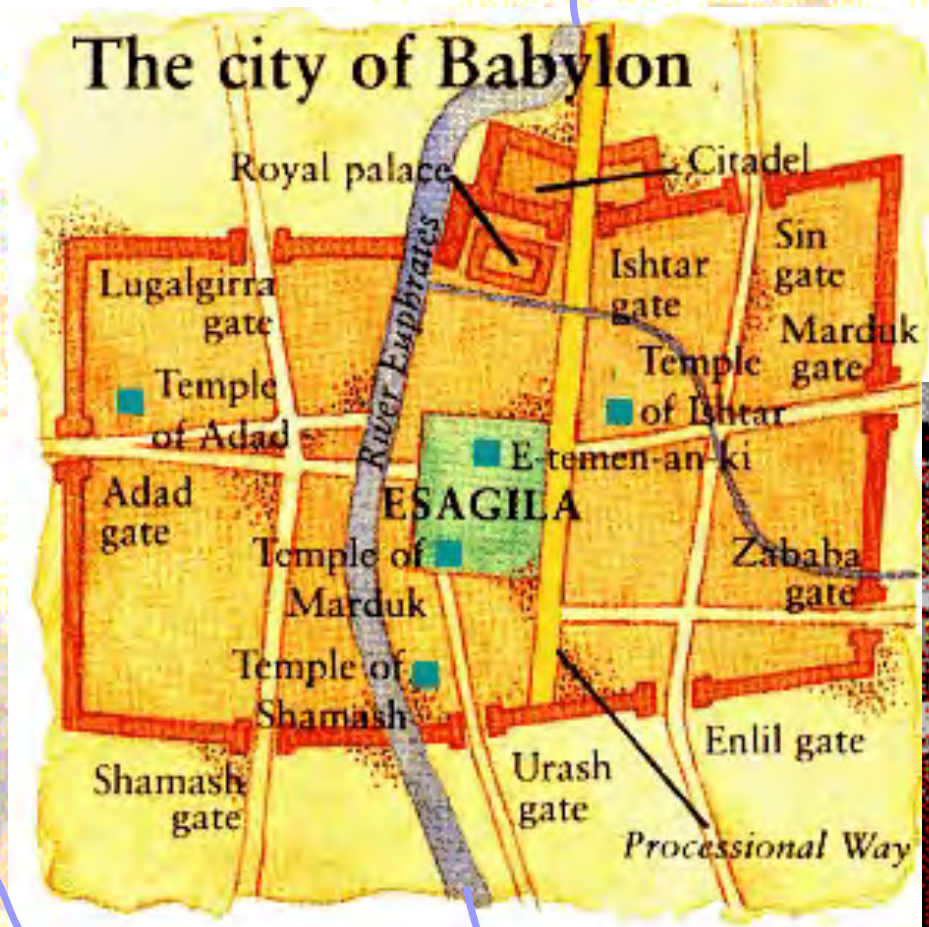


• Rembrandt

Fall of Babylon

BABYLON FELL (539 BC)

Cyrus entered under the water gates



Daniel 5

(Belshazzar's Feast)



**Don't let your confusion stop you from
being amazed at how God works.**

**WE SHOULD BE
AMAZED**









Be Amazed

Be Amazed



Be Amazed



Be Amazed



A Prayer



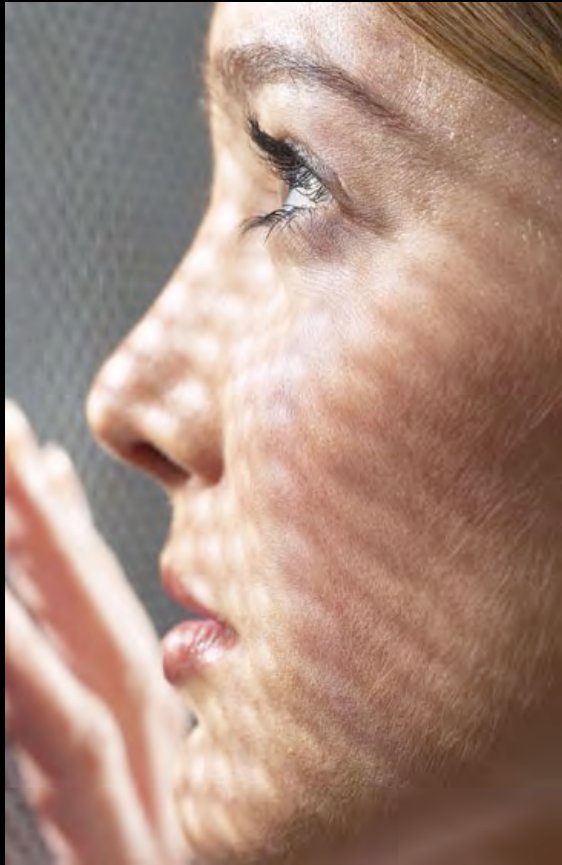
O, God of wonder,
enlarge my capacity
to be amazed at what
is amazing, and end
my attraction with the
insignificant.

—*John Piper*—

How should we deal with
life when **perplexed**?



Main Idea



**When perplexed,
be amazed with
God's ways.**

Habakkuk

I. We're often utterly **perplexed**
at God's plan.



II. When perplexed, be
amazed with God's ways
(Main Idea).



**What issue most baffles you
where you need hope?**

HOPE



Key Word

627
343

Faith

Habakkuk



Key Verse

627

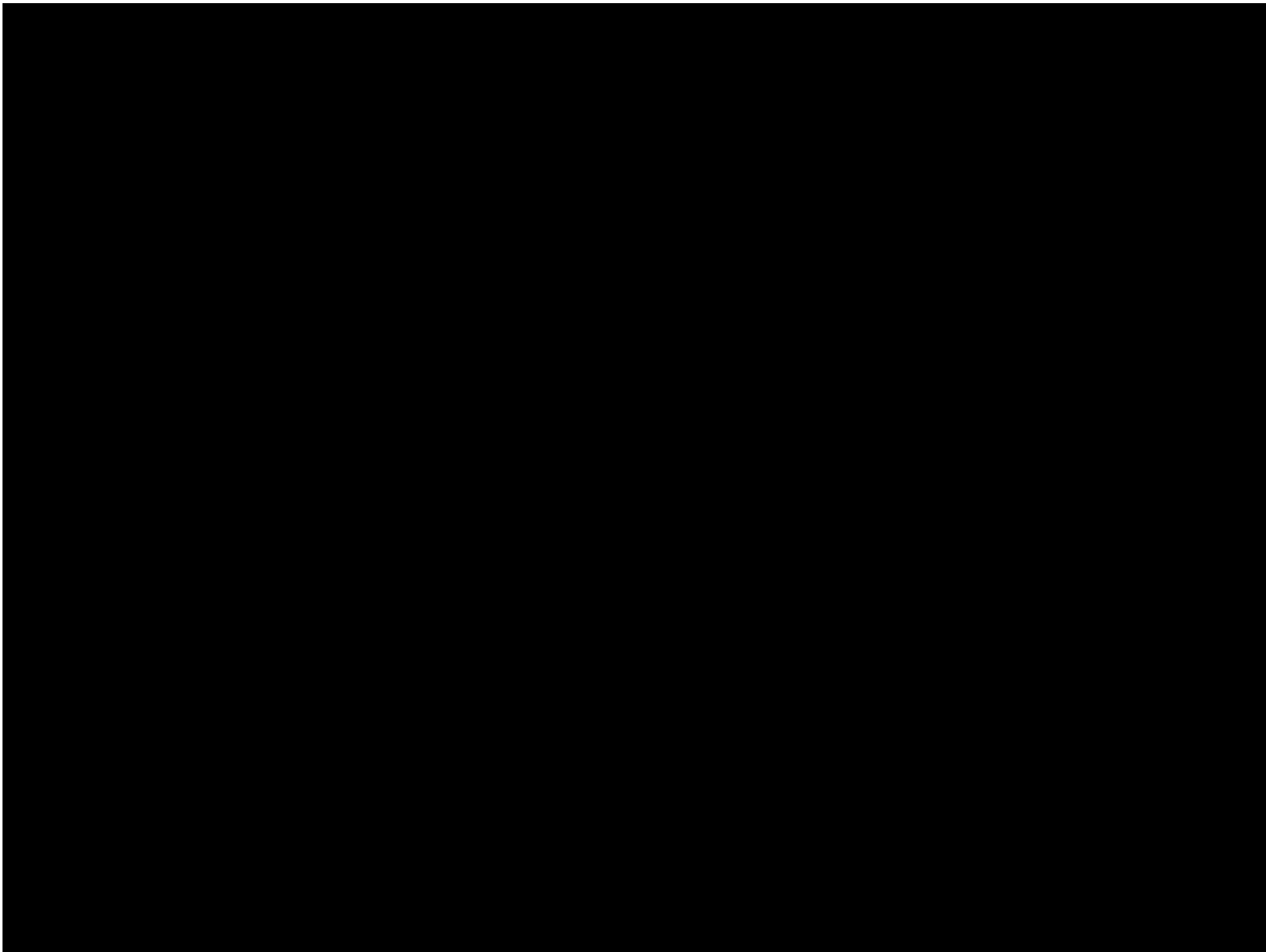
(God regarding Babylon) "See, he is puffed up; his desires are not right—but the righteous will live by his **faith**" (2:4).

Habakkuk

Rest in the LORD

"Be still in the presence of the LORD, and wait patiently for him to act. Don't worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes" (Psalm 37:7 NLT).






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