



GOD!

*Do you know what
you are doing?*

**A Study of
Habakkuk**

Key Word

627
343

Faith

Habakkuk

Theme

627

Babylon's Destruction

Habakkuk

Key Verse

627

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

Habakkuk

Kingdom Statement

343

God's people must have **faith** in His sovereignty (2:4) that may include raising up instruments of His justice that are even more wicked than His people (1:12f.).

Habakkuk



Summary Statement

God's discipline of Judah by Babylon may seem perplexing, but God promises to punish Babylon too, resulting in praise for his sovereign, faithful workings in the past to encourage Judah to **trust Him in the future despite the circumstances.**

Habakkuk

Judah's disregard for the Mosaic covenant (1:4) will be judged (1:5-11; cf. Deut. 28) but the just who live by faith (2:4) will fill the earth "with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD" (2:14; cf. Isa. 11:9) in the new covenant.

Habakkuk

Redemption

347d

After first complaining that God would not deliver Judah from herself (1:2), the prophet recalls God's past redemption (3:13) as a prelude to his future deliverance (1:5-6, 12) as Savior (3:18).

Habakkuk

Messiah

God is Judge (2:3) and Savior (3:18) in like manner to the Lord Jesus whose very name "Jesus" means "salvation" from Israel's enemies (Matt. 1:21).

Habakkuk

Babylon's Destruction

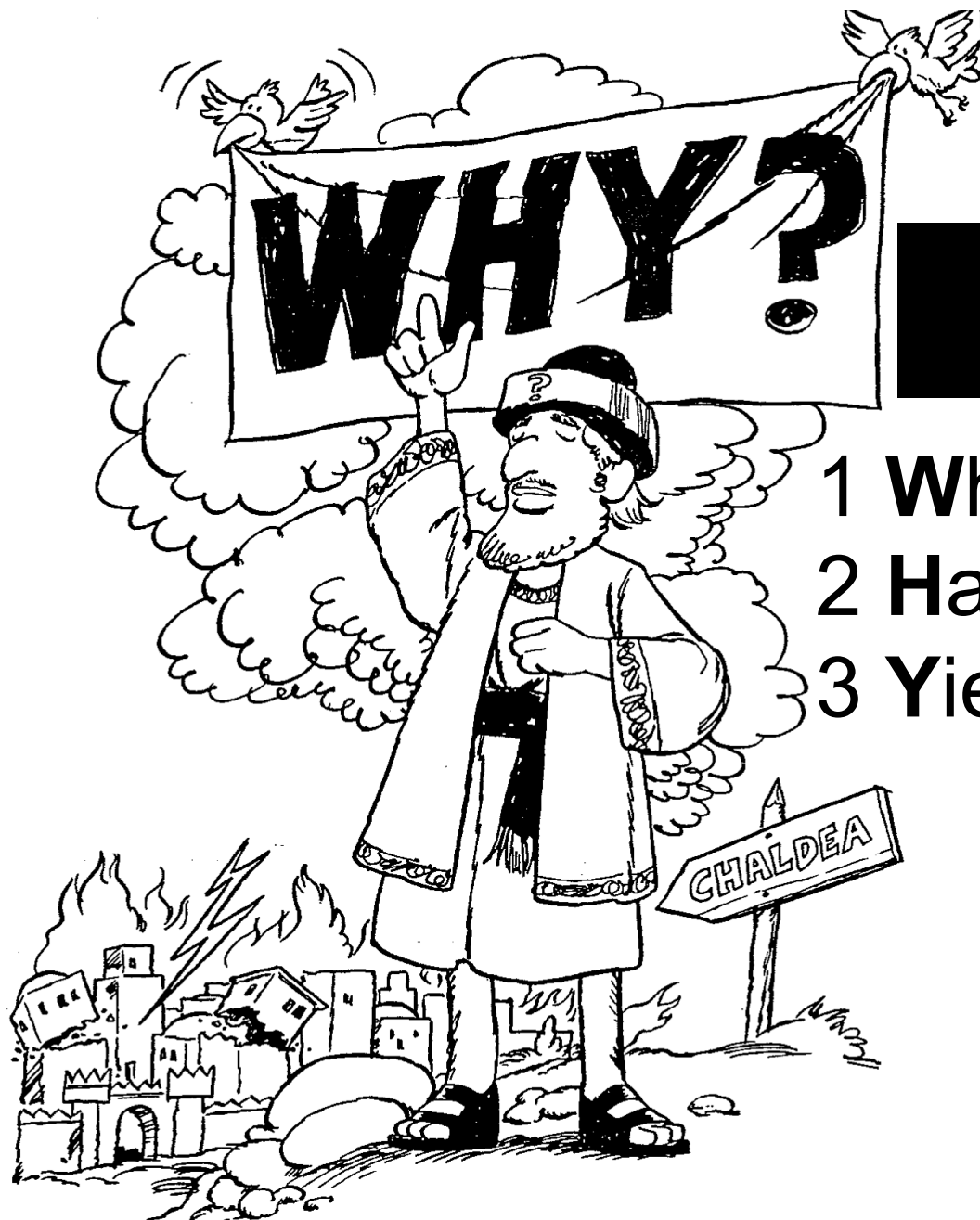
627

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

Habakkuk



Habakkuk

- 1 **Why** is evil unpunished
- 2 **H**ughty Chaldea will fall
- 3 **Y**ield to God's sovereignty

A hand is shown in silhouette, reaching upwards with fingers spread, against a background of a bright, cloudy sky. The text 'Be Amazed' is overlaid on the image, with 'Be' in black and 'Amazed' in white with a blue shadow.

Be *Amazed*

Habakkuk

Dr. Rick Griffith, Crossroads International Church Singapore
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don't



What I know.

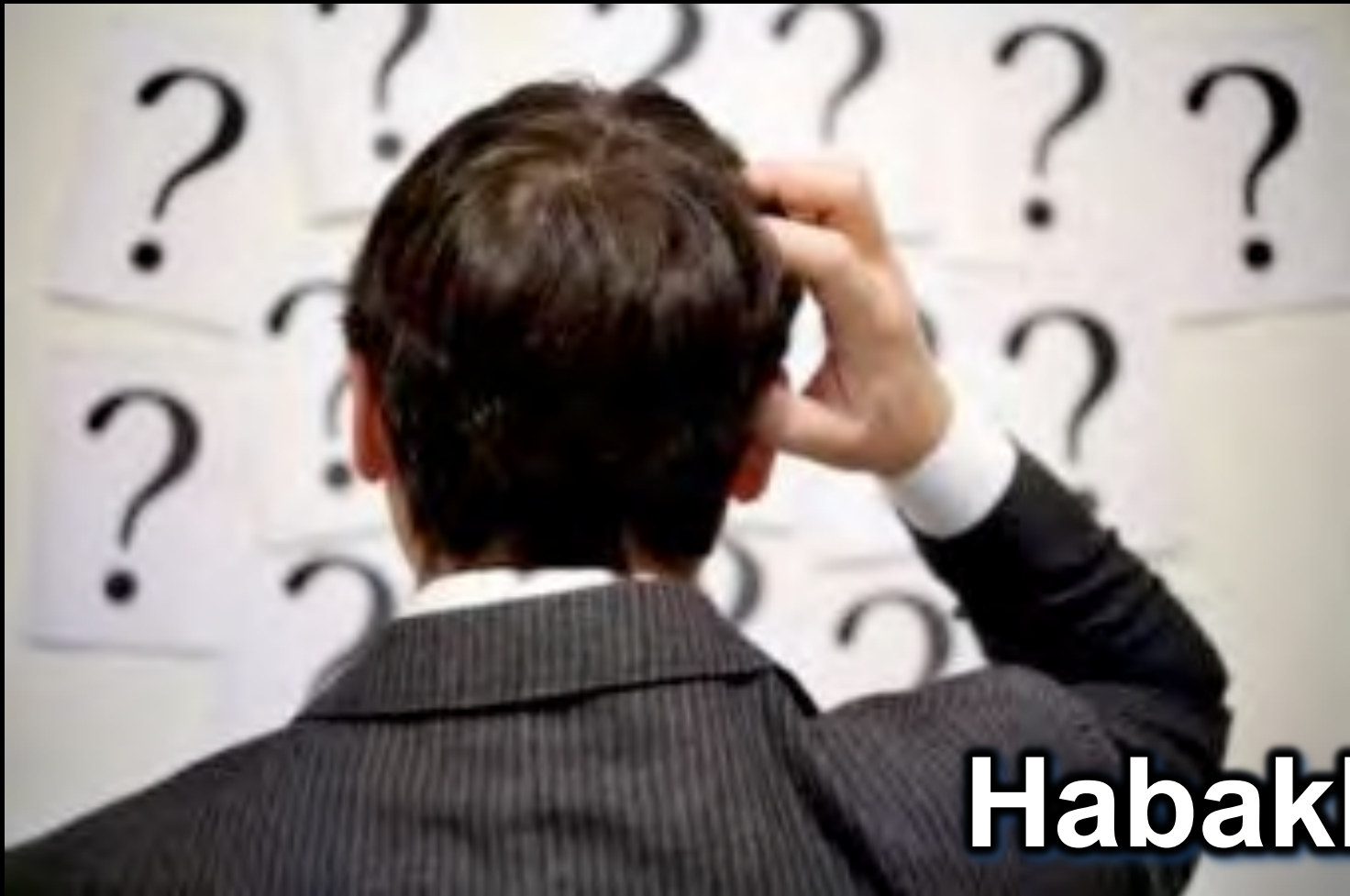
Why so much injustice?



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

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



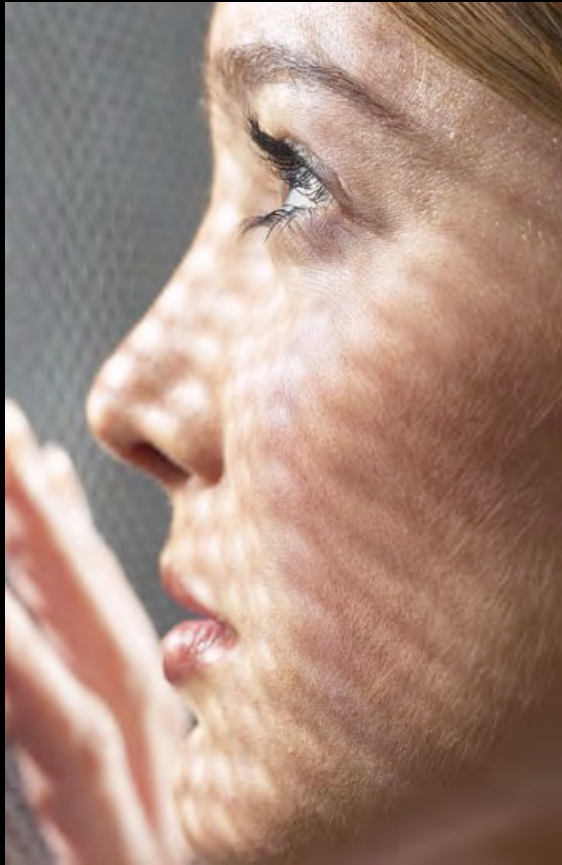
Habakkuk 1–2



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

Habakkuk 3

Main Idea



When perplexed,
be amazed with
God's ways.

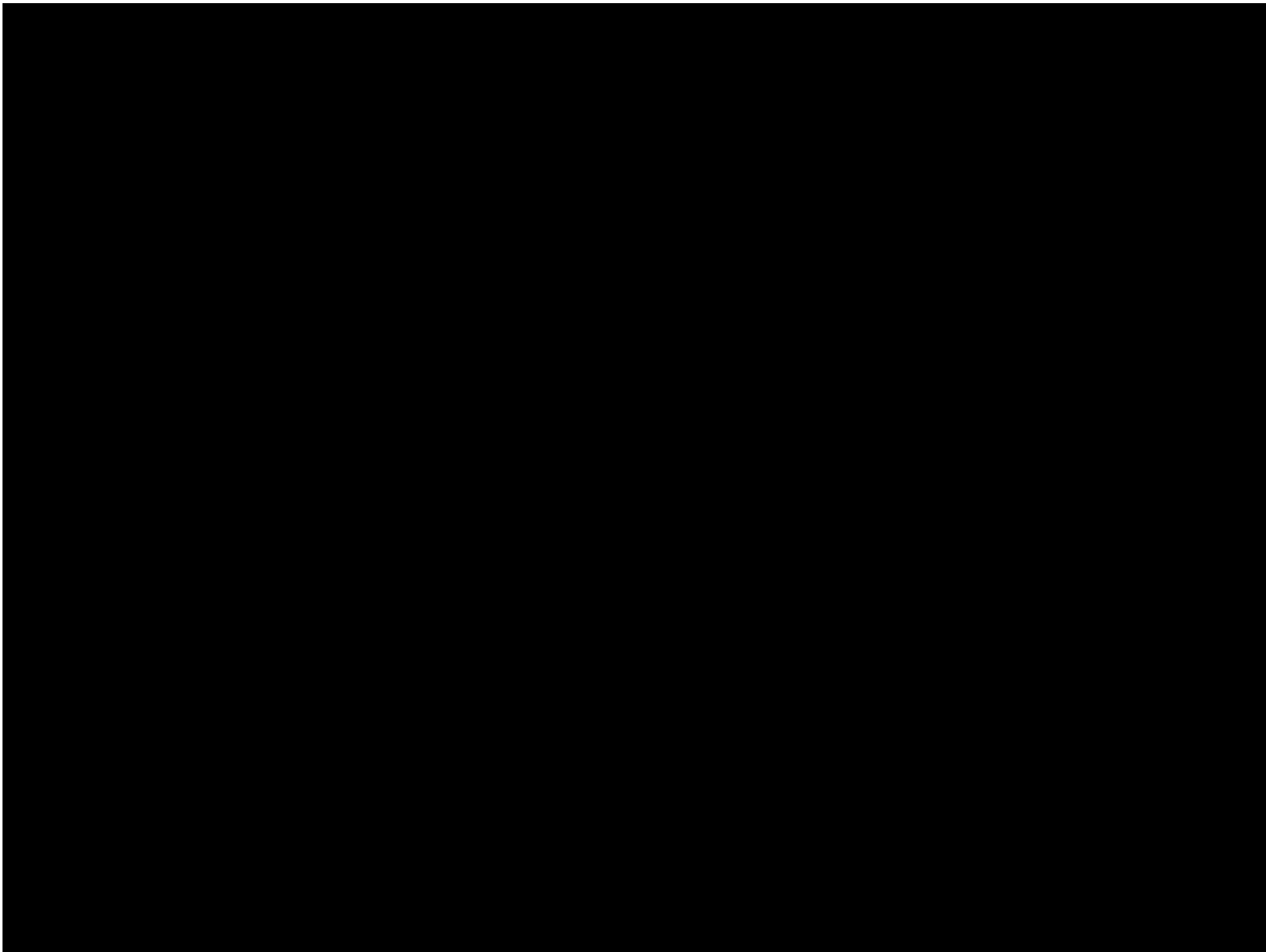
Habakkuk

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

HOPE

The word 'HOPE' is rendered in a large, bold, serif font. It has a bright, golden-yellow glow and is positioned above a horizontal line that creates a reflection of the word below it. The background is dark, making the glowing text stand out.

Habakkuk



Small Group Discussion

**How has God used
injustice in your life?**



Key Word

627
343

Faith

Habakkuk



Contents

1. TITLE

2. DATE

3. AUTHORSHIP

4. RECIPIENTS

5. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

6. LITERARY STRUCTURE

7. THEOLOGY

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C
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Habakkuk

The title comes from a Hebrew root word for "to embrace."

Yet whether the embracing is active (the embracer) or passive (the embraced) remains a mystery to us.

Author

Habakkuk is not known outside 1:1 that simply describes him as "the prophet."



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*

The Book of 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?



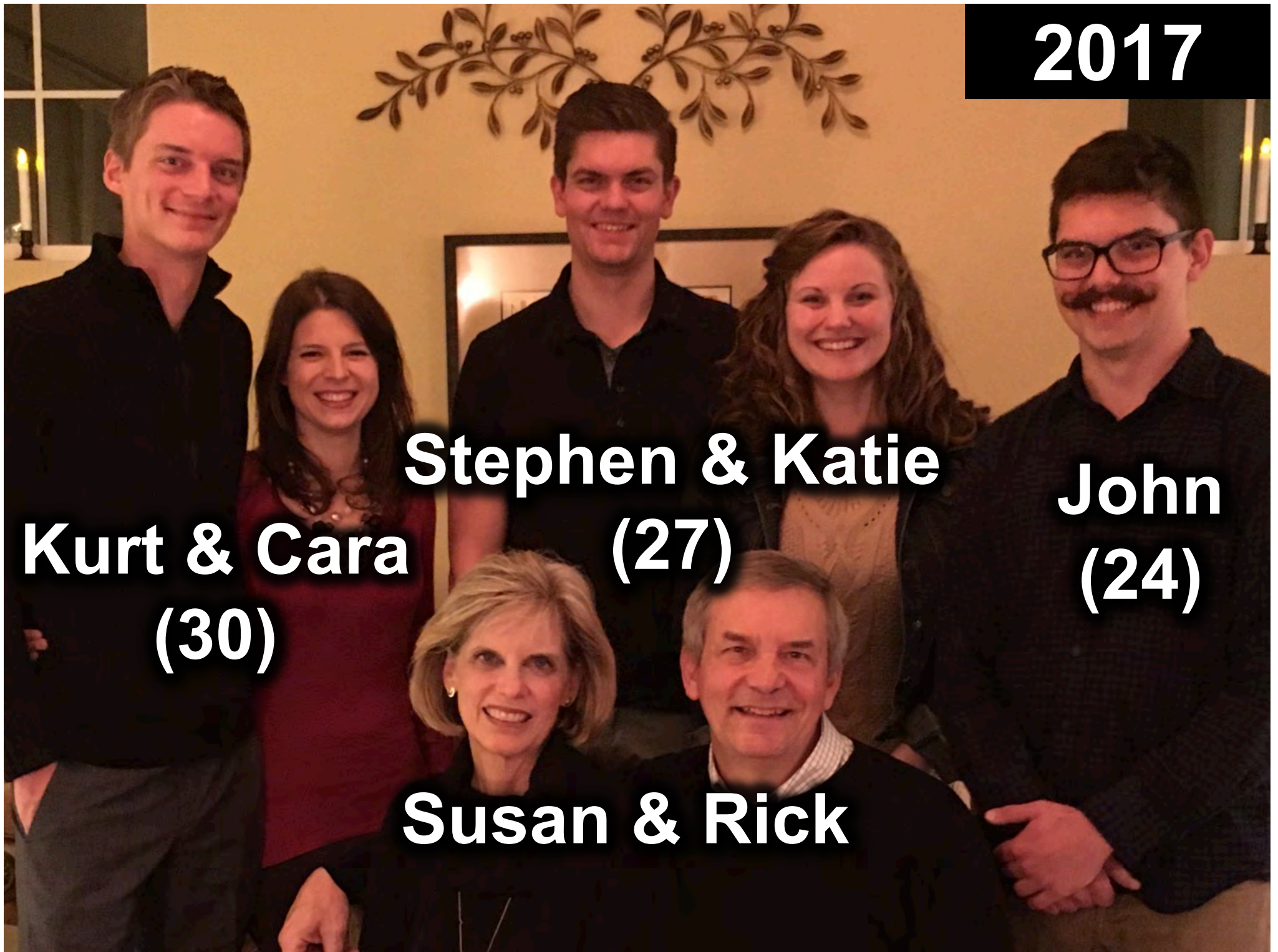
2017

**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.

**"Just do
the math."**



**"God, how
old is the
earth?"**

GODLY

Mothers



The Foundation of Biblical Wisdom

PROVERBS 22:6

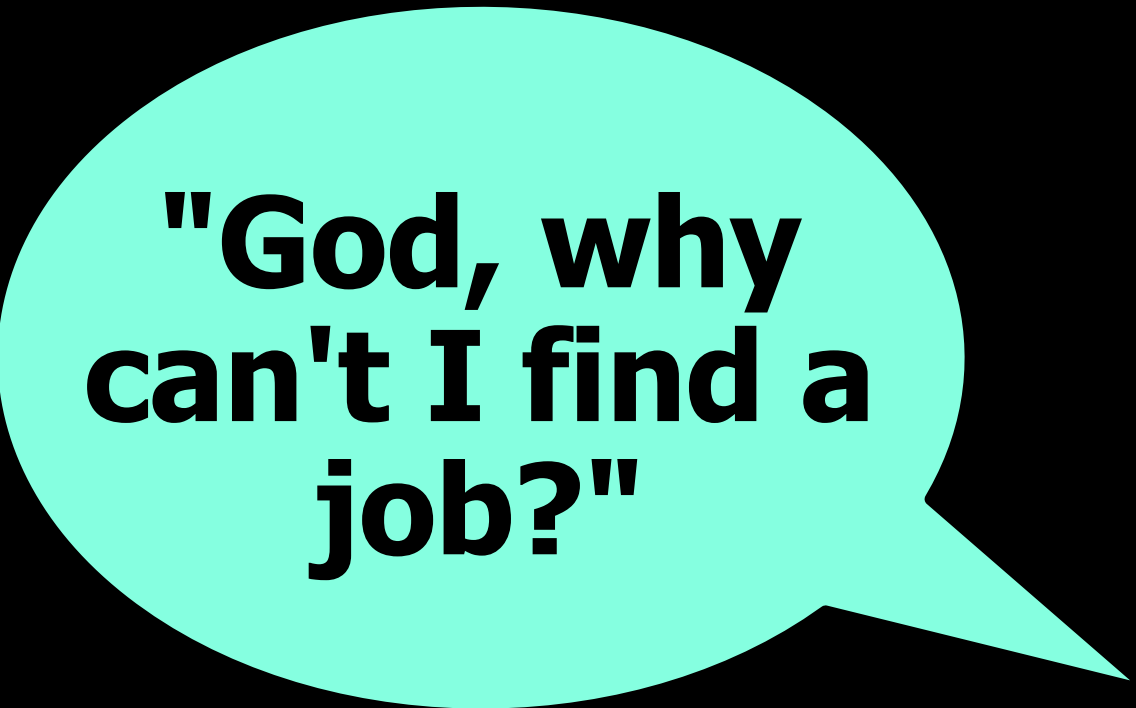


"Trust Me."

**"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**?



660 650 640 630 620 610 600 590 580 570 560 550 540 530 520

KINGS OF
ASSYRIA

ASHURBANIPAL

ASHURETILANI

SINSHARISHKUN

ASHURUBALIT II

Nahum, Zephaniah, & Their Contemporaries

663 BC
Fall of
Thebes

NAHUM
660

Fall of
Nineveh

612 609 605

539

WORLD
POWERS

ASSYRIAN

ZEPHANIAH
630

BABYLONIAN

PERSIAN

Fall of
Jerusalem
586

KINGS
OF
JUDAH

MANASSEH

JOSIAH

JEHOIAKIM

ZEDEKIAH

CAPTIVITY OF
JUDAH TO
BABYLON (586)

RETURN
FROM EXILE

AMON

JEHOAHAZ

JEHOIACHIN

HABAKKUK
606

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
evening wolves:
shall spread
horsemen

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.)

Babylon's Destruction

627

Chapters 1–2				Chapter 3		
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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

Habakkuk

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



Habakkuk 1–2

Who was causing the
injustice?

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

An Evil End to Judah

1

Josiah640-609
(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]

Babylon's Destruction

627

Chapters 1–2				Chapter 3		
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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

**"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.**

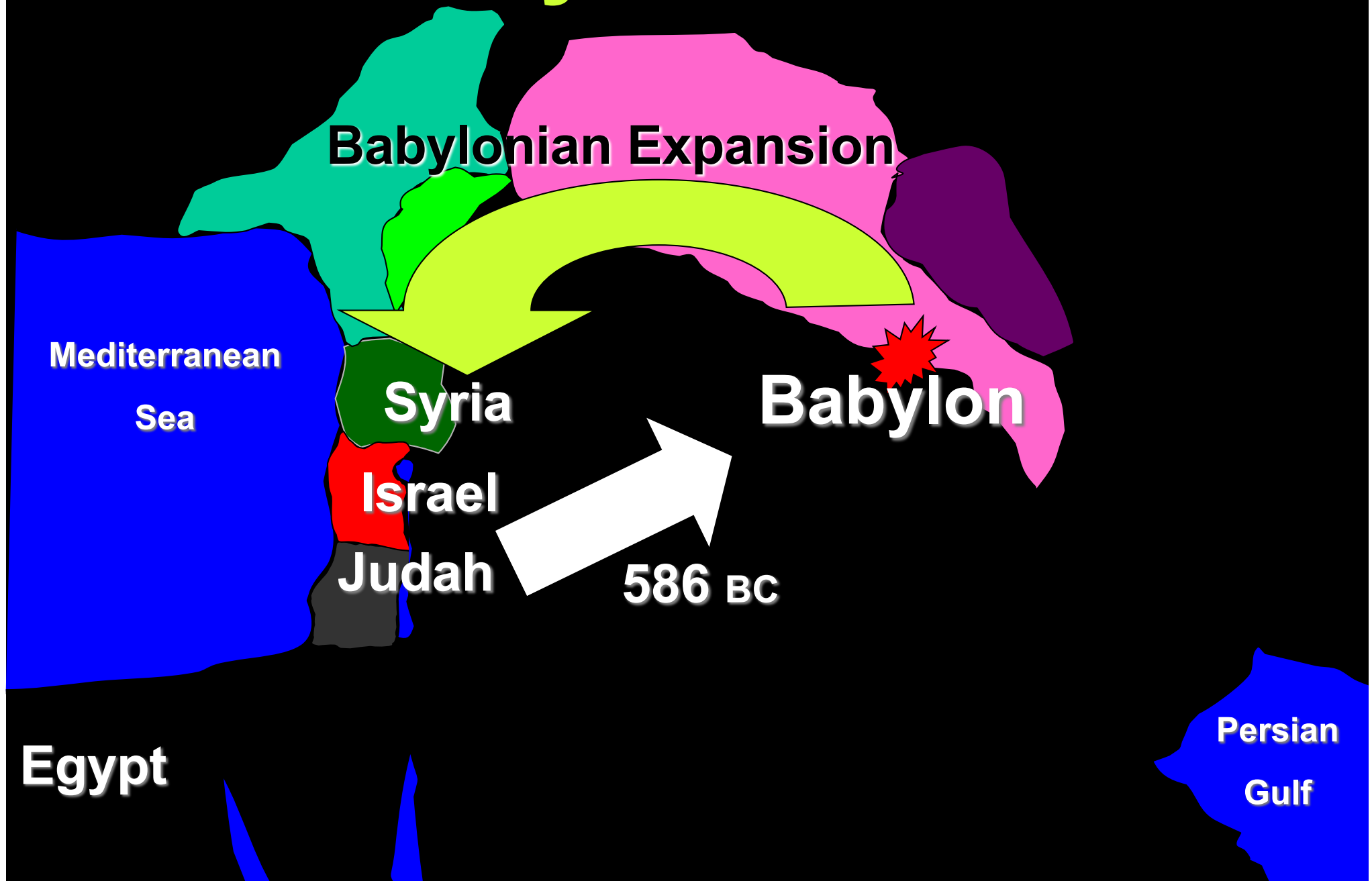
**¹⁰ They scoff at kings and princes
and scorn all their fortresses.**

**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

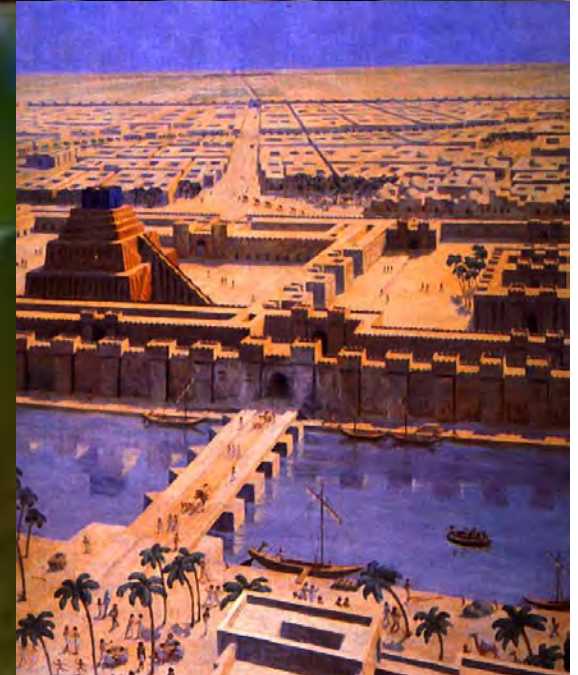


The Babylonians

(Neo-Babylonian Empire)

625-539 BC

Babylonia



Ancient Near East

Dominant Peoples in Mesopotamian History

Proto-Literate
Early

**Neo-Babylonian
625-539 BC**

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

Neo-Babylonian Empire

Neo-Babylonian Rulers

Nabopolassar

625-605 BC

Nebuchadnezzar II

605-562 BC

Evil-Merodach

562-560 BC

Nabonidus

560-539 BC

Labashum

Nabonidus

Nebuchadnezzar II

604-562 BC

BC

Jerusalem's Fall

232
&
342

Key Dates

627

Jeremiah

605

Daniel

597

Ezekiel

Jerusalem's
Fall

586

Joel

538

Habakkuk

Lamentations

Josiah's Sons & Prophets

232
342

Daniel

605

Ezekiel

Josiah

Jehoahaz

Jehoiakim

Jehoiachin

Zedekiah

City
Fell

609

(3 mos.)

(11 yrs.)

597

(3 mos.)

(11 yrs.)

586

Jeremiah

627

 Brief Puppet Kings

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).

MAN

GOD

632

**Accuses God of injustice
(1:2-4)**

**Justly uses whoever He
wants (1:12b)**

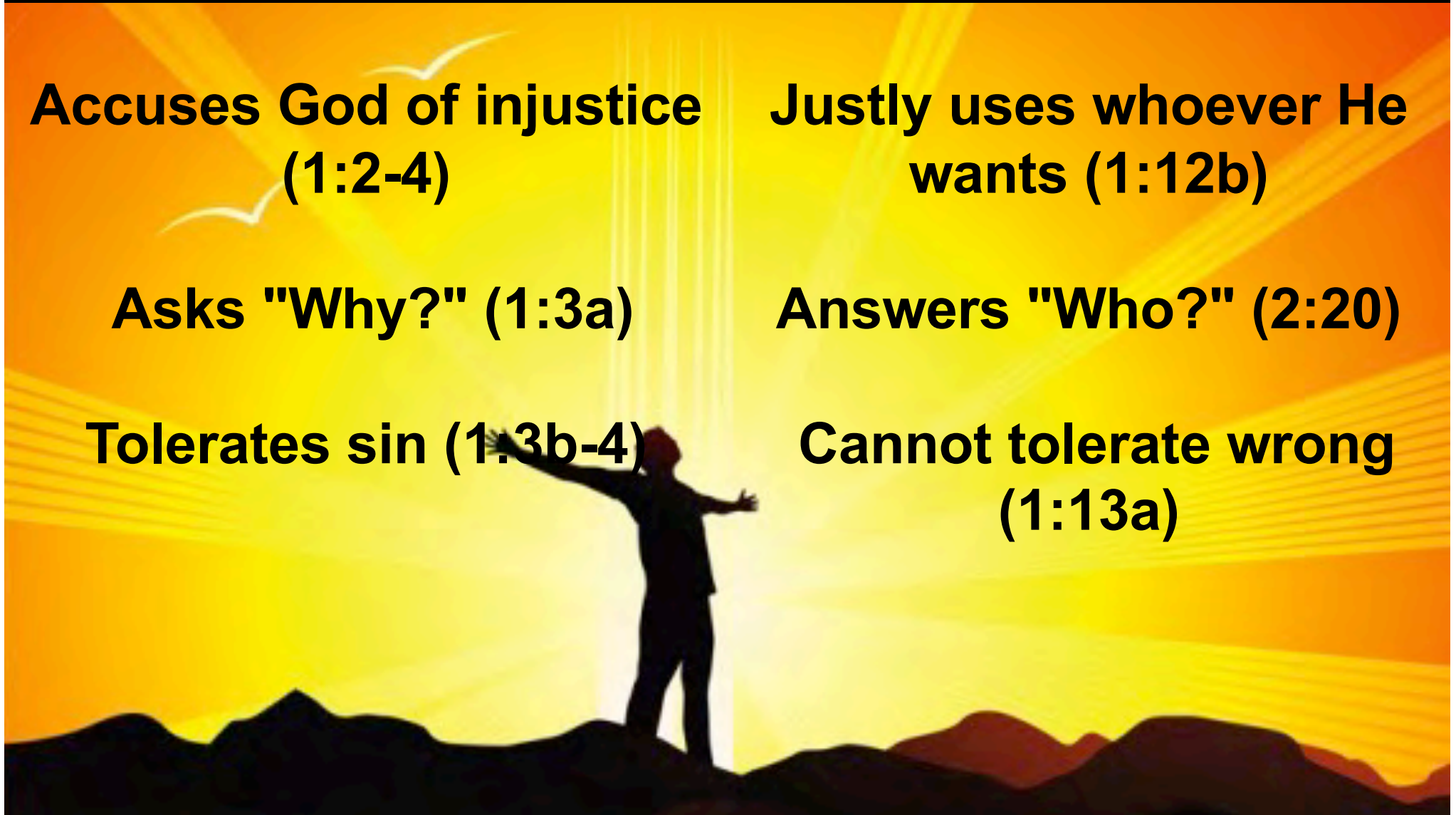
Asks "Why?" (1:3a)

Answers "Who?" (2:20)

Tolerates sin (1:3b-4)

**Cannot tolerate wrong
(1:13a)**

Man and God Contrasted in Habakkuk



MAN

GOD

632

Feels things are out of control (1:14-17)

Has all things in control (1:5)

Says God can't use the wicked (1:13)

Uses even the wicked in His plan (1:6)



Man and God Contrasted in Habakkuk

MAN

GOD

632

**Impatient with God's
judging sin (1:2)**

**Patient in judgment of sin
(2:3; cf. 2 Pet. 3:9)**

**Wants God to show him
by sight (2:1)**

**Wants man to trust Him
by faith (2:4)**



Man and God Contrasted in Habakkuk

Habakkuk 2

Integrity of 1:5-11; 2:9-20 & 3

More than half of the book has been denied to the prophet Habakkuk. If the prophecy is rightly interpreted (see above), no valid reason for rejecting 1:5-11 can be found. Habakkuk 2:9-10 is denied to Habakkuk chiefly on two grounds:

- 1. The "woes" are supposedly unsuitable to be addressed to the Chaldaean king.**
- 2. Some parts, especially verses 12-14, "consist largely of citations and reminiscences of other passages, including some late ones" (compare verse 12 with Mic 3:10; verse 13 with Jer 51:58; verse 14 with Isa 11:9; verse 16b with Jer 25:15-16; verses 18-20 with Isa 44:9 ff; 46:6-7; 10:1-16).**

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

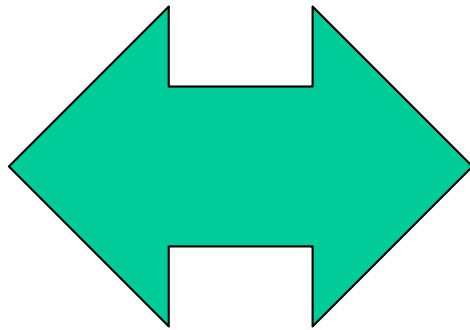
Habakkuk

2:3

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

God contrasts

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



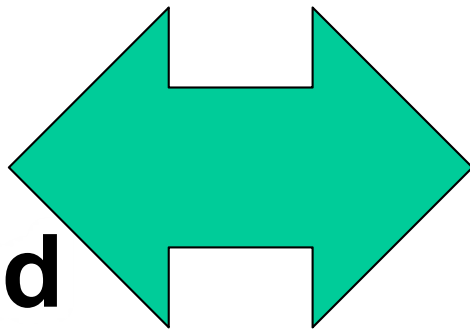
**with the
preservation
of the
righteous
remnant of
Judah**

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."**



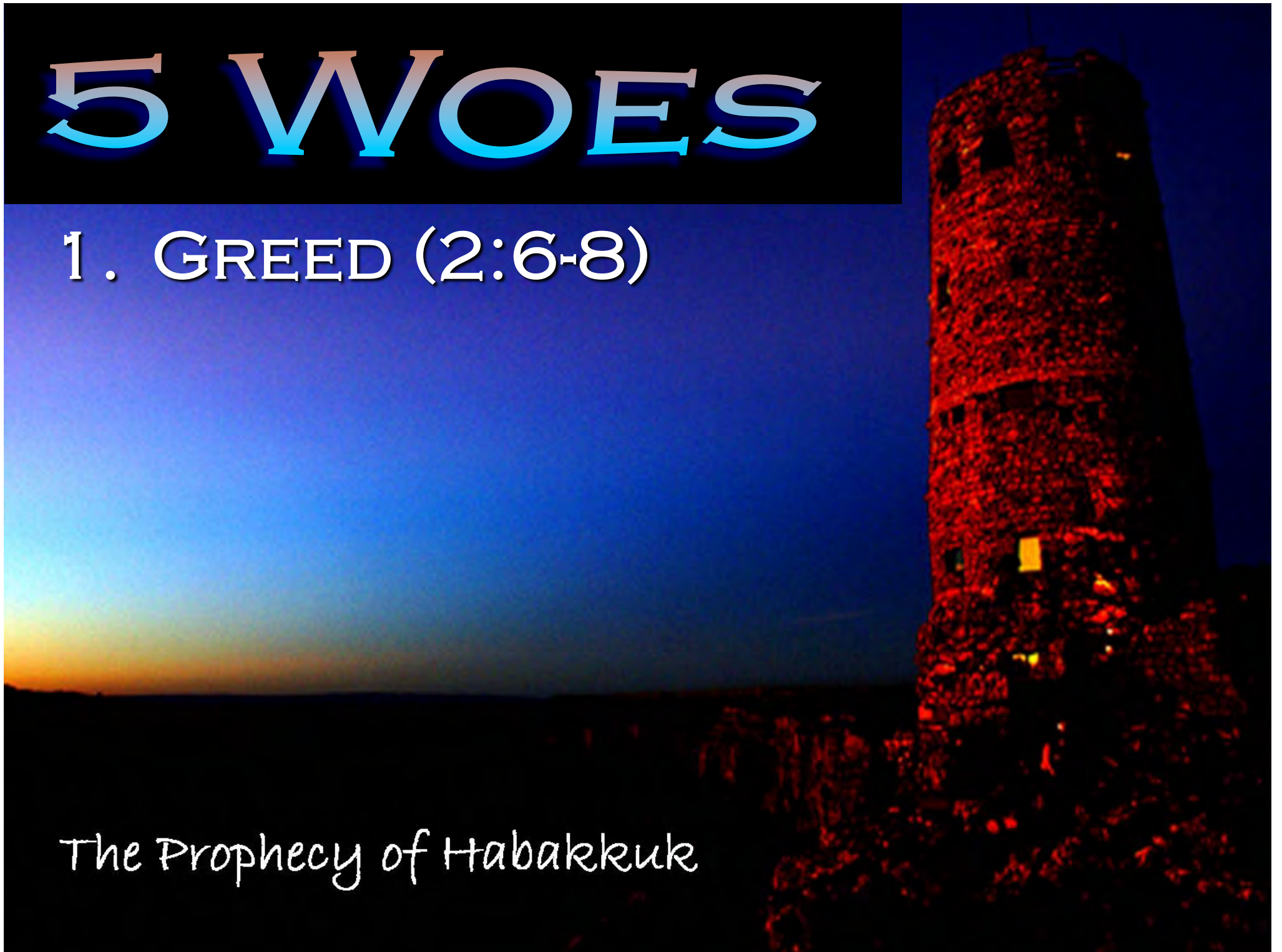
**But the
righteous will
live by their
faithfulness
to God"
(NLT).**

**"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)

The Prophecy of 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!"**

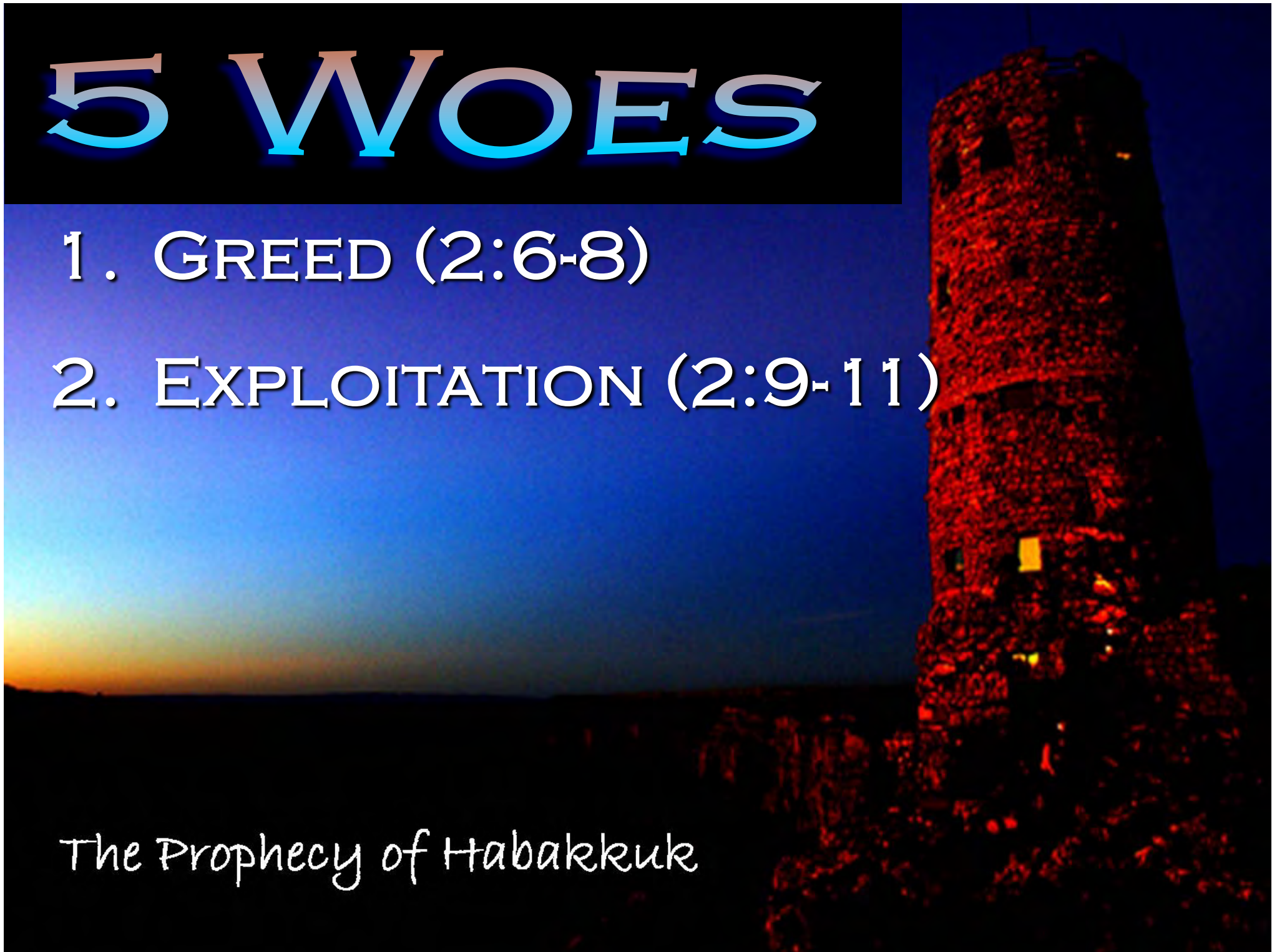


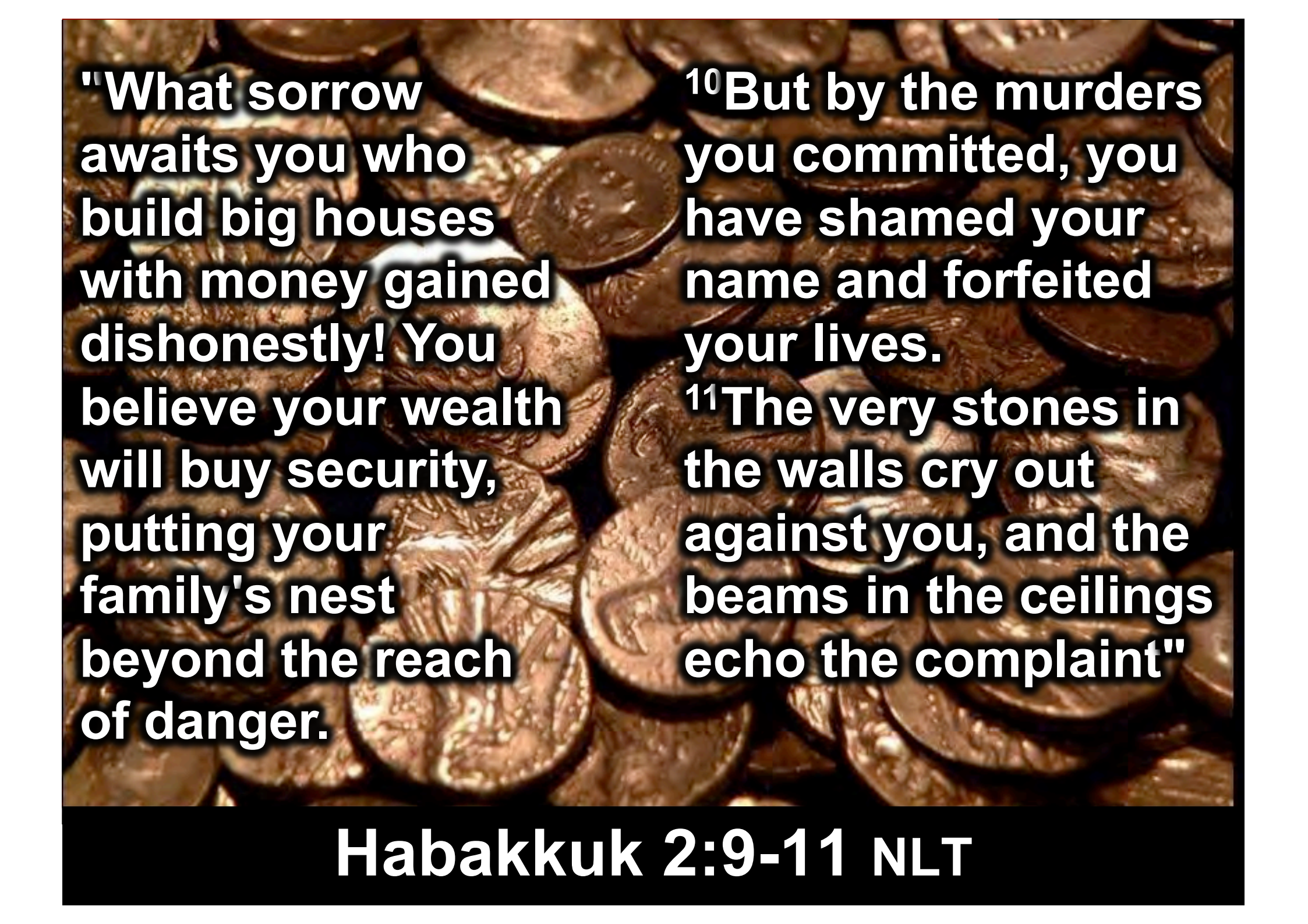
5 WOES

1. GREED (2:6-8)

2. EXPLOITATION (2:9-11)

The Prophecy of 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.**

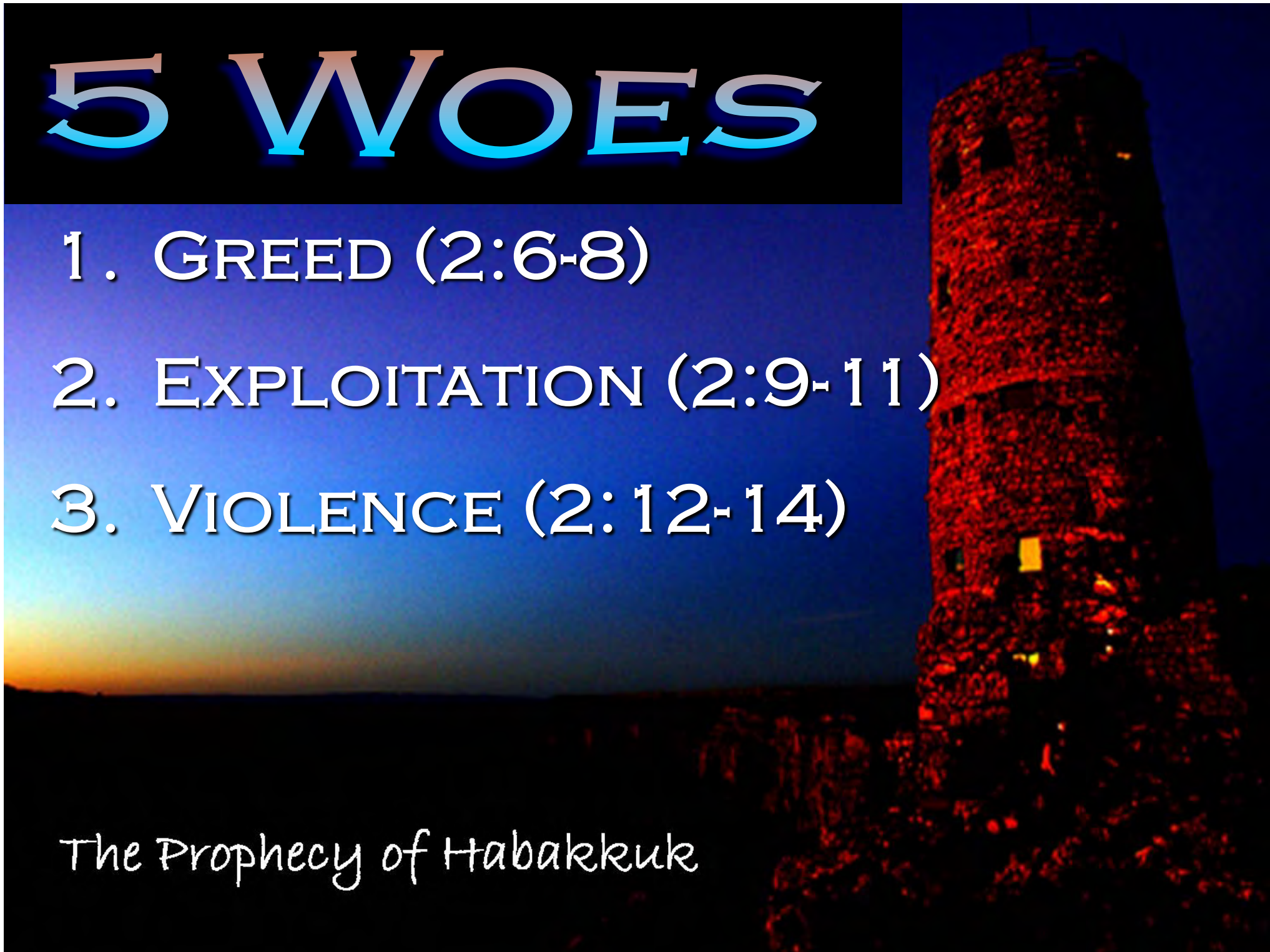
**¹¹The very stones in
the walls cry out
against you, and the
beams in the ceilings
echo the complaint"**

Habakkuk 2:9-11 NLT

5 WOES

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

The Prophecy of 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?

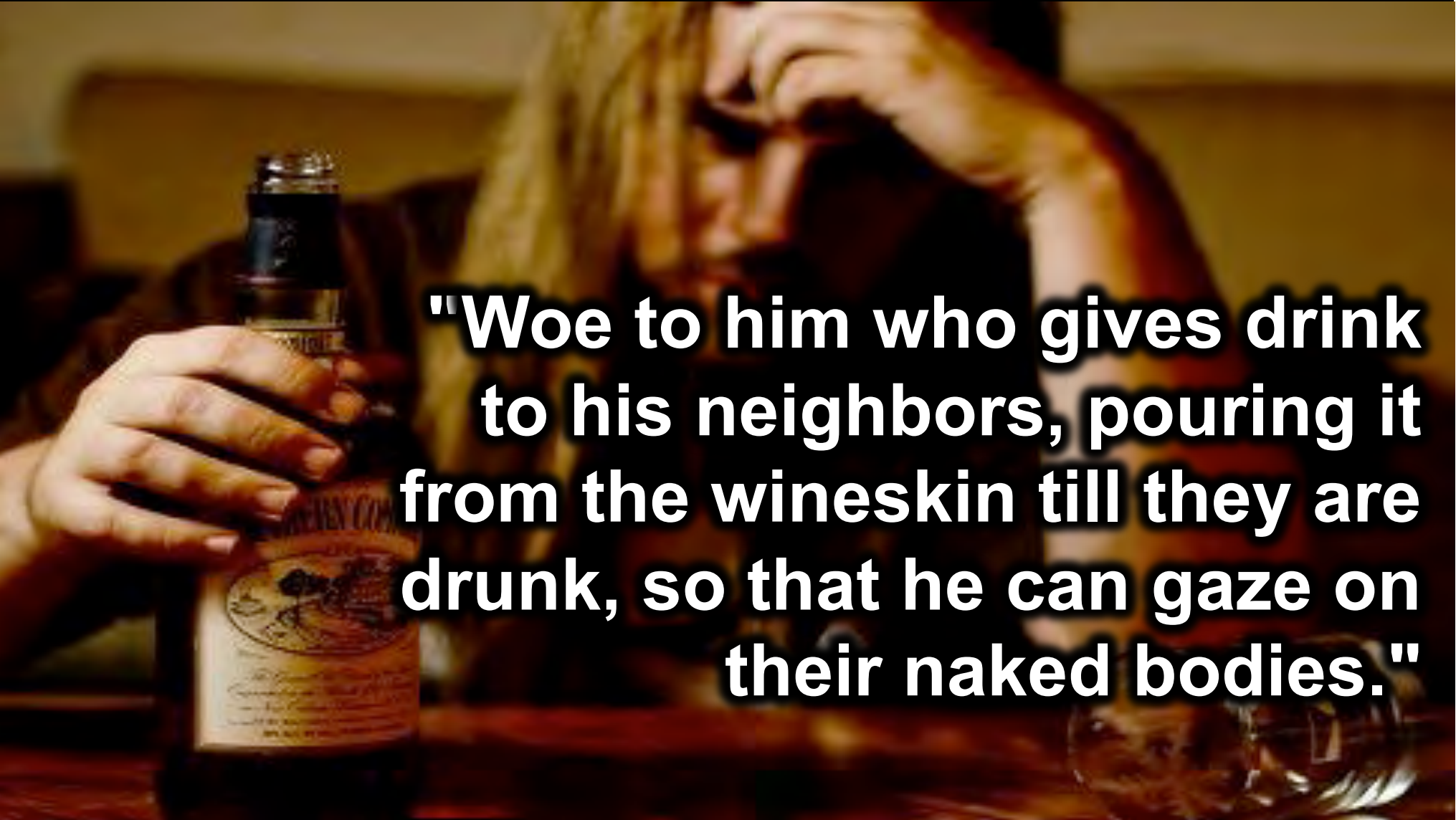
5 WOES

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

The Prophecy of 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 an indoor setting 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)

The Prophecy of 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."**

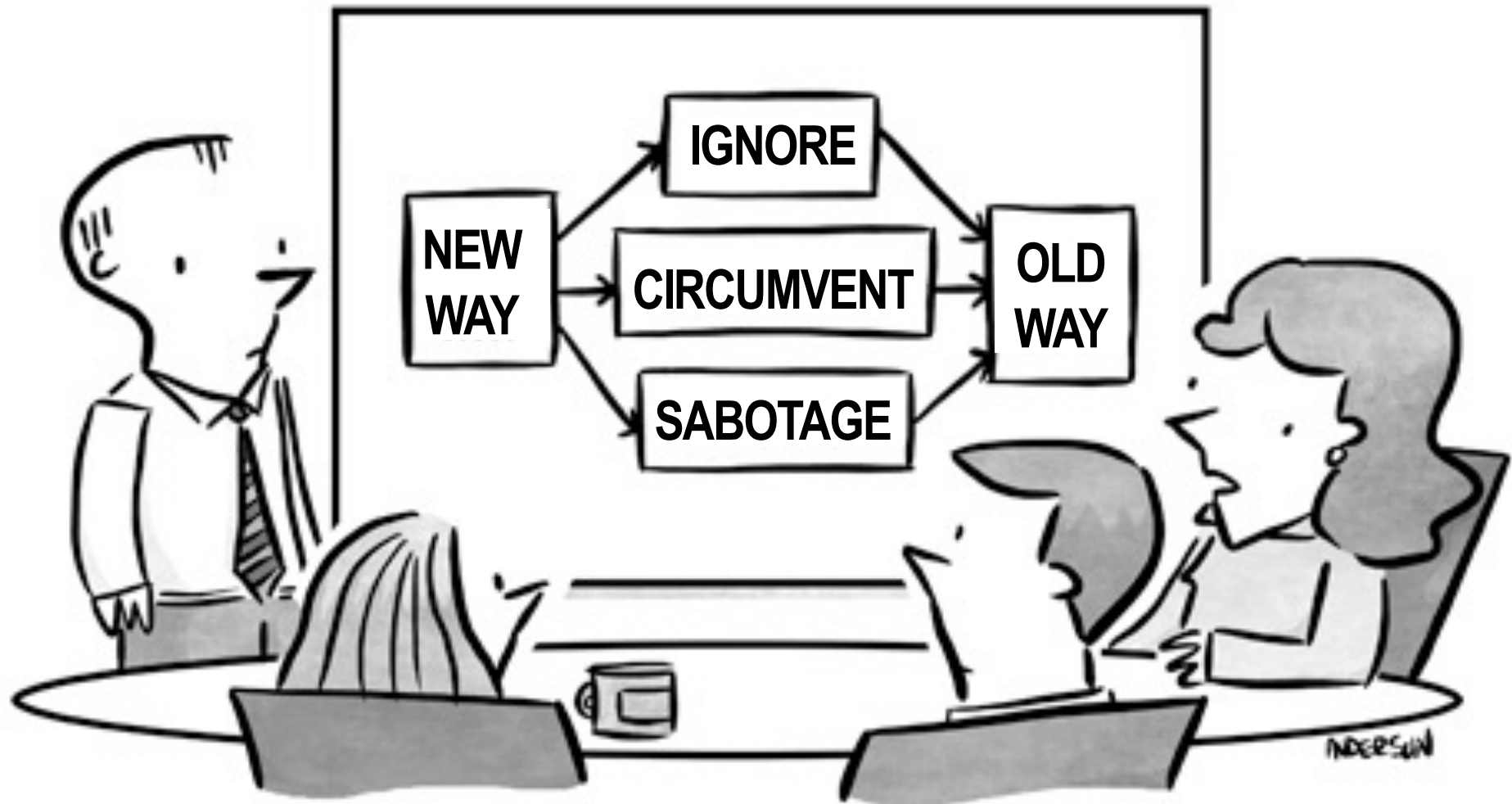


Habakkuk 2:20

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



Which came first?



"So business as usual."



Rabbi Harold
Kushner

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

When
BAD
Things Happen to
GOOD
People

HAROLD S. KUSHNER

With a New Preface by the Author

***Do you agree with
this title?***



"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.**

Habakkuk 3

Habakkuk 3

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				Habakkuk		

Doubt About Chapter 3

Chapter 3 is denied to the prophet by many scholars because chapter 3 is a psalm being designed for use in the temple worship.

This has led some scholars who prefer to think that the temple worship attained comparative purity and an advanced theology only in the period after the Exile to date the psalm in the post-Exilic period.

Further support to the argument seems to be found in the fact that the Habakkuk commentary found among the Qumran Scrolls makes no reference to the third chapter of Habakkuk.

Habakkuk 3

The Prophet's Hope



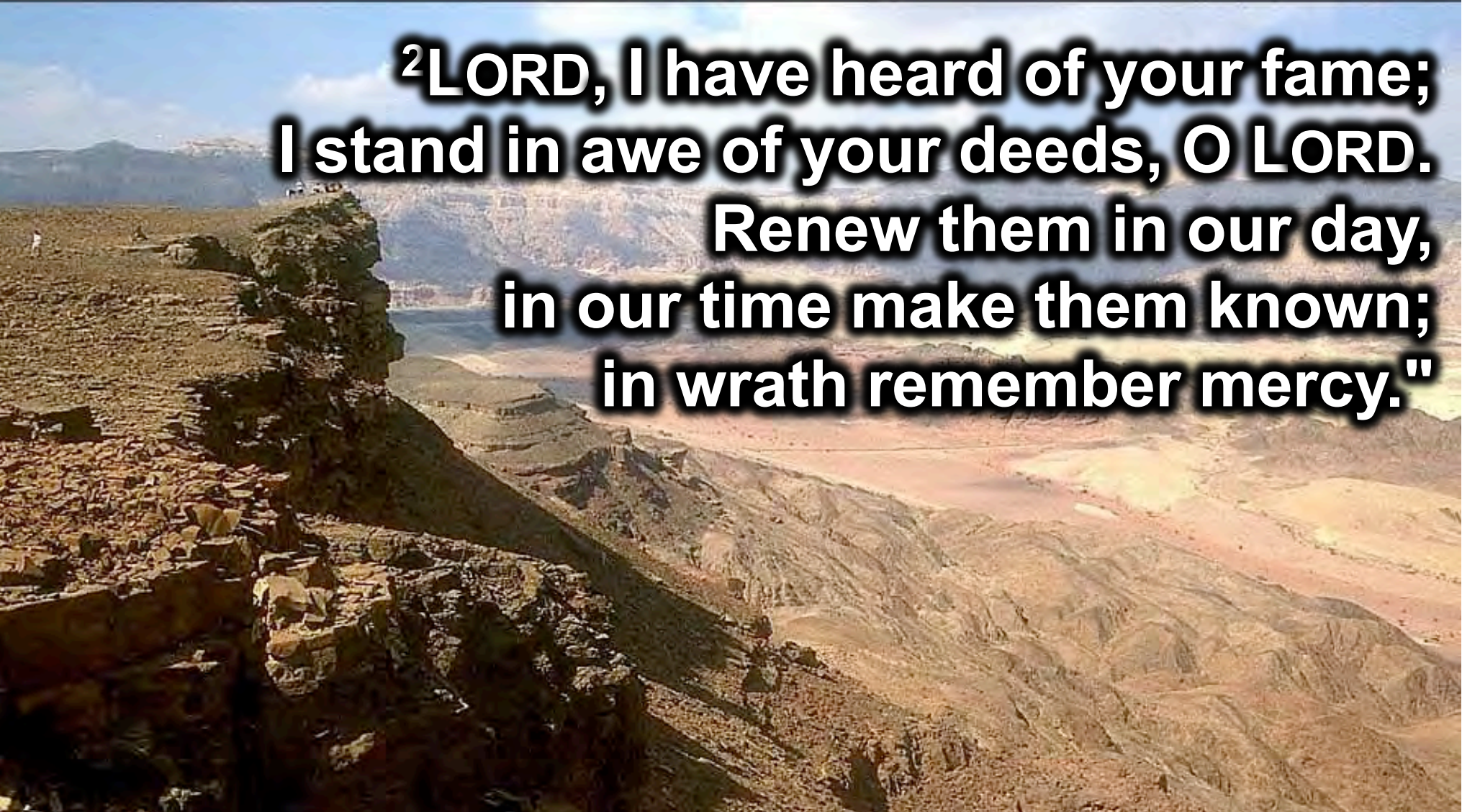
The Answer to "Why" is....

"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."



**"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).**

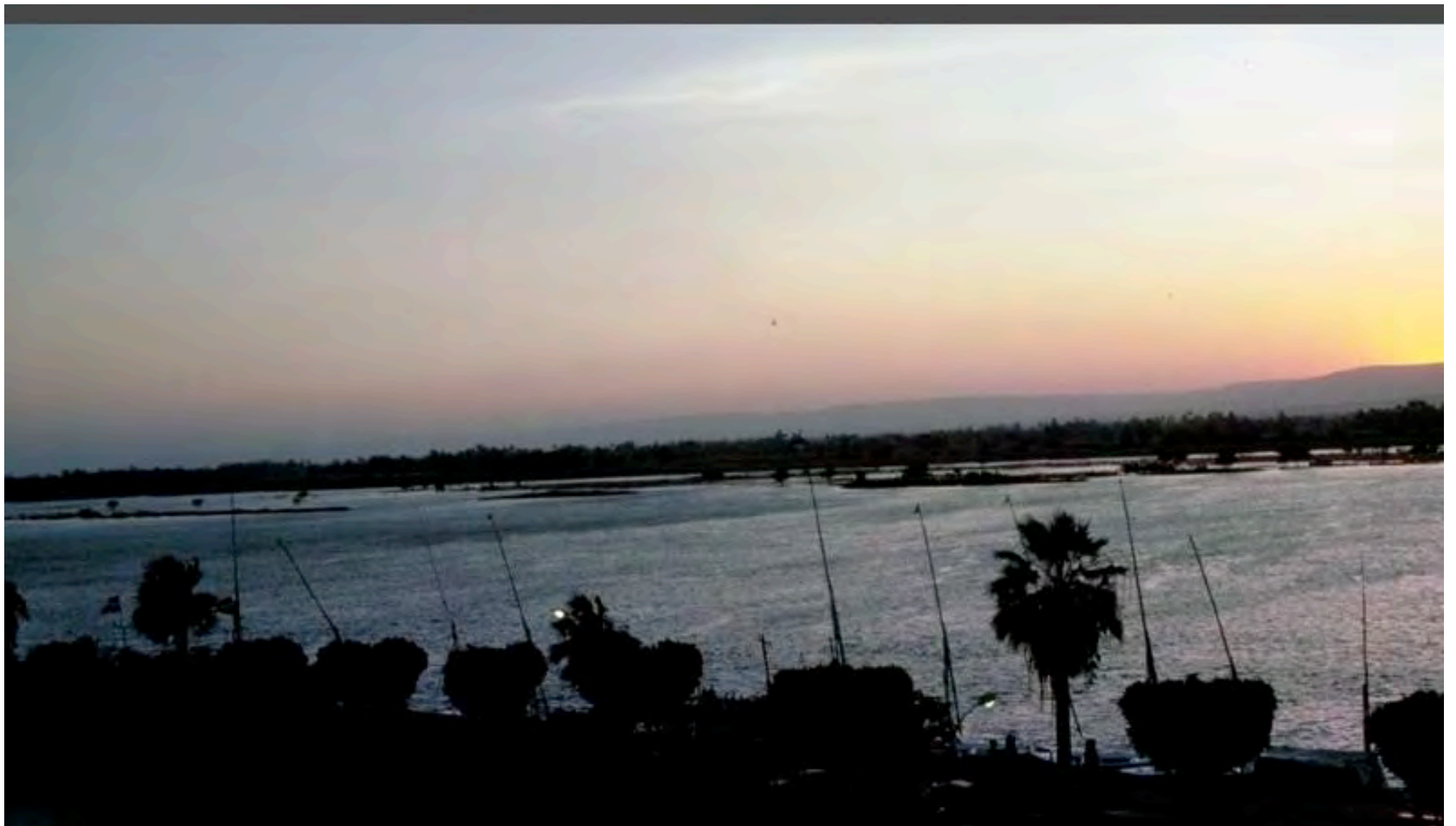


Judah

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

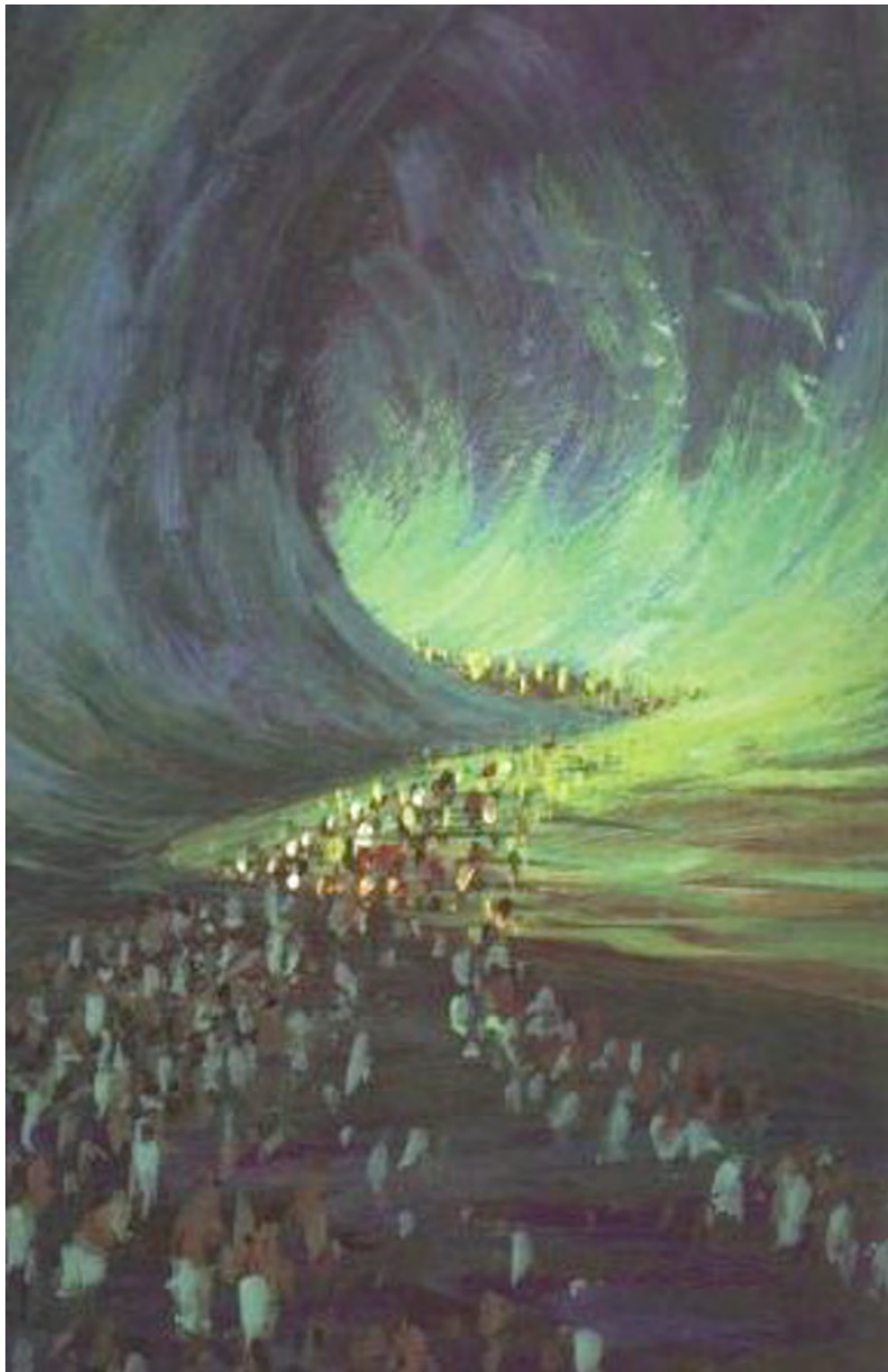


The Leader



Exodus 12

כִּי־יֵצֵא מִצֵּי־אֵשׁ מִלִּפְתָּח הַבַּיִת לִפְנֵי הָעָם וְכִשְׂשֹׁאֵלִם



**"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.**

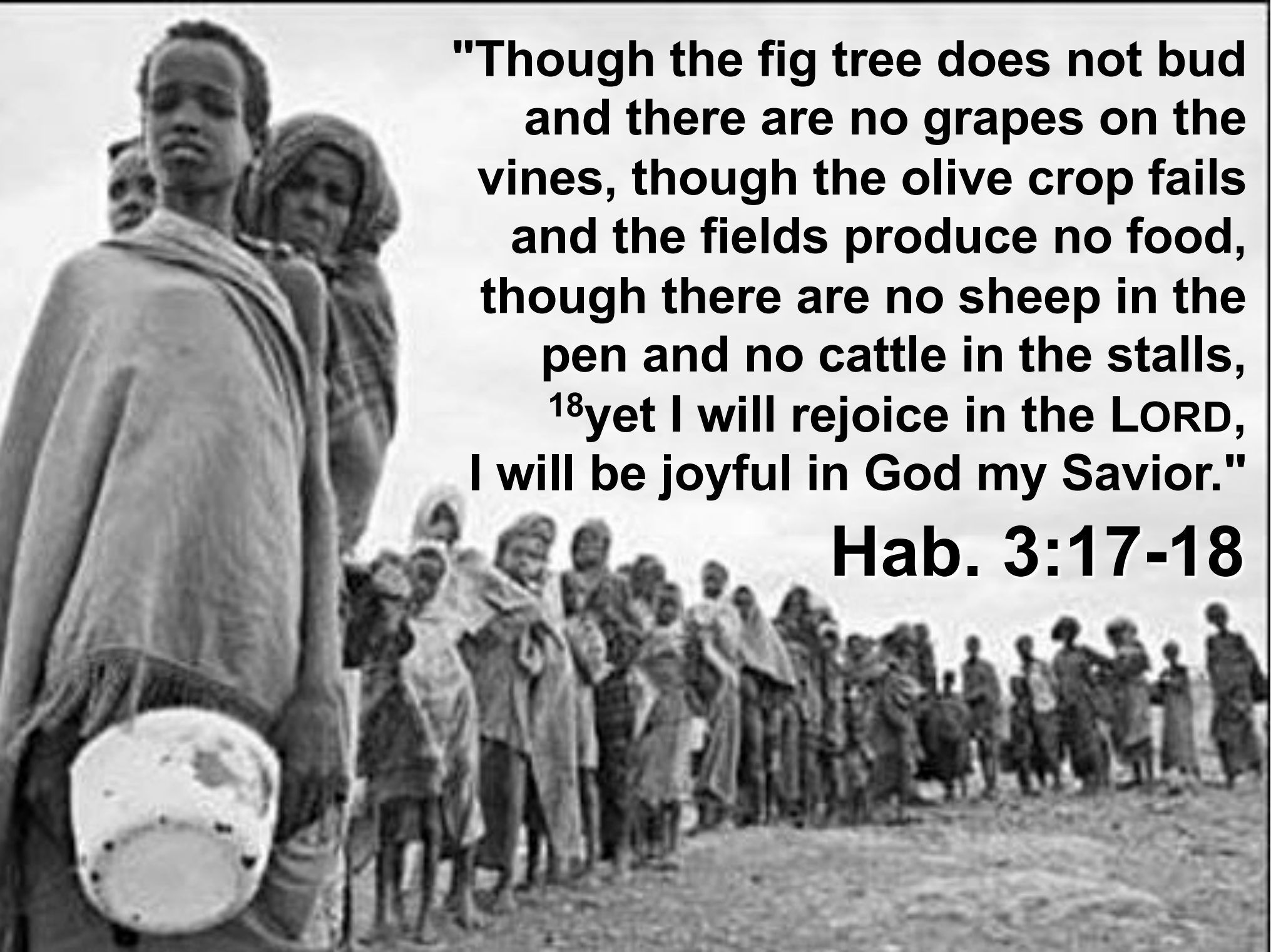
**¹³ You went out to rescue your
chosen people, to save your
anointed ones. You crushed the
heads of the wicked and
stripped their bones from head
to toe" (3:12-13 NLT).**

**"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





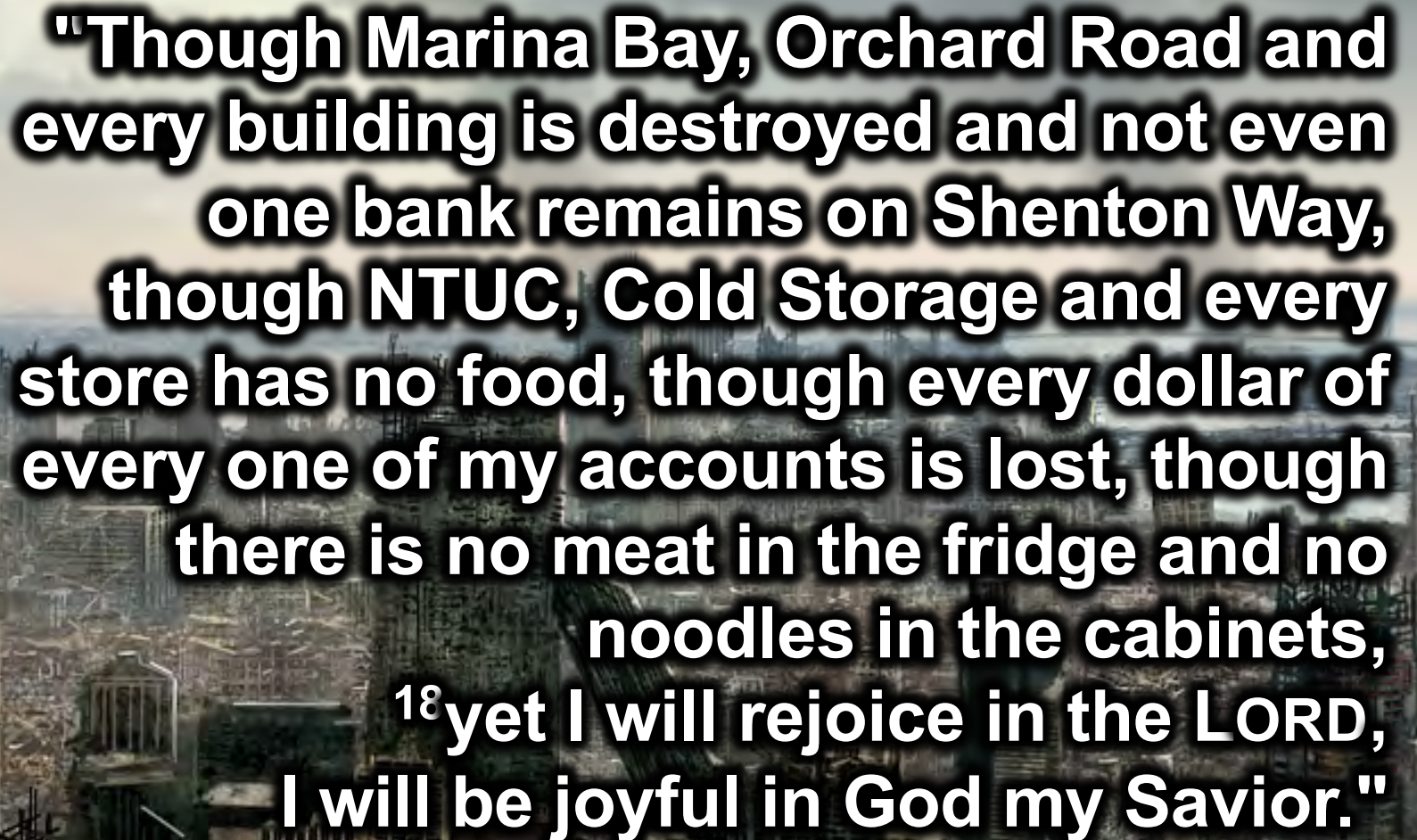
**"Though the fig tree does not bud
and there are no grapes on the
vines, though the olive crop fails
and the fields produce no food,
though there are no sheep in the
pen and no cattle in the stalls,
¹⁸yet I will rejoice in the LORD,
I will be joyful in God my Savior."**

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

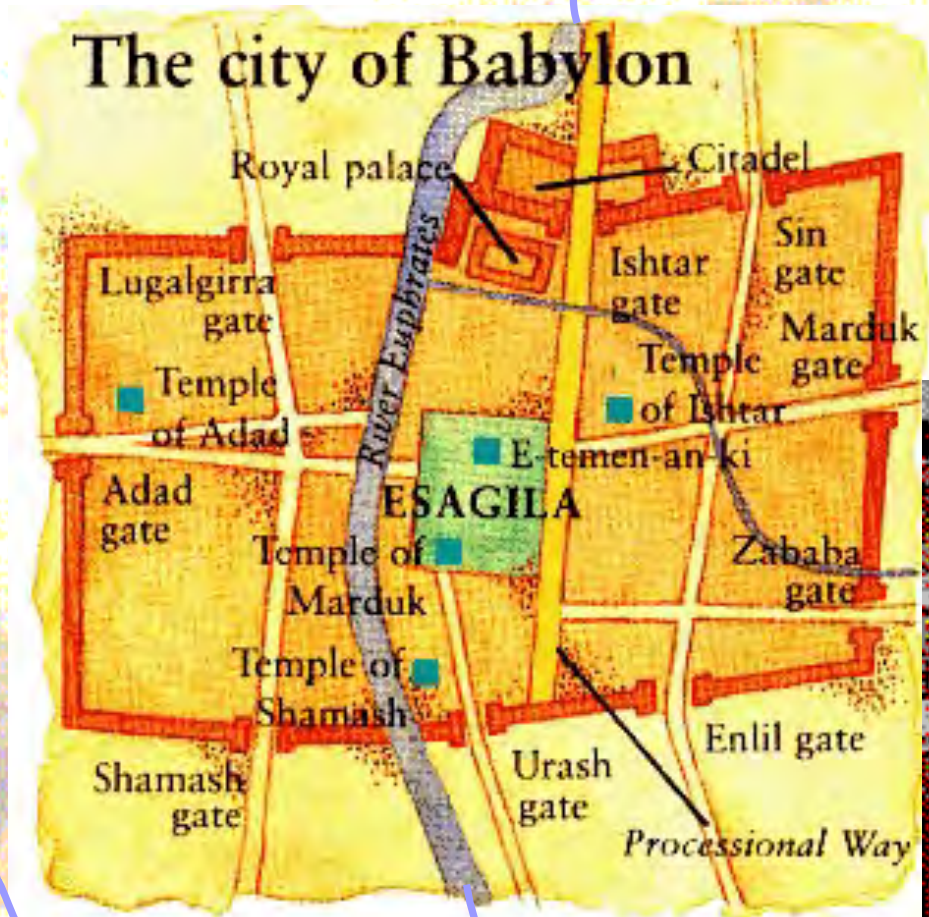


• Rembrandt

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



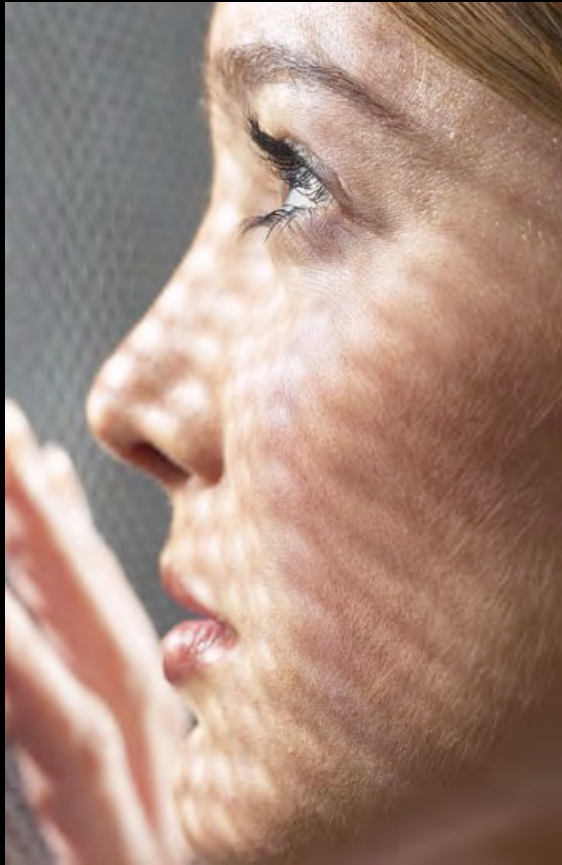
O, God of wonder,
enlarge my capacity
to be amazed at what
is amazing, and end
my attraction with the
insignificant.

—*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.**

Habakkuk 3

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

HOPE



Key Word

627
343

Faith

Habakkuk



Key Verse

627

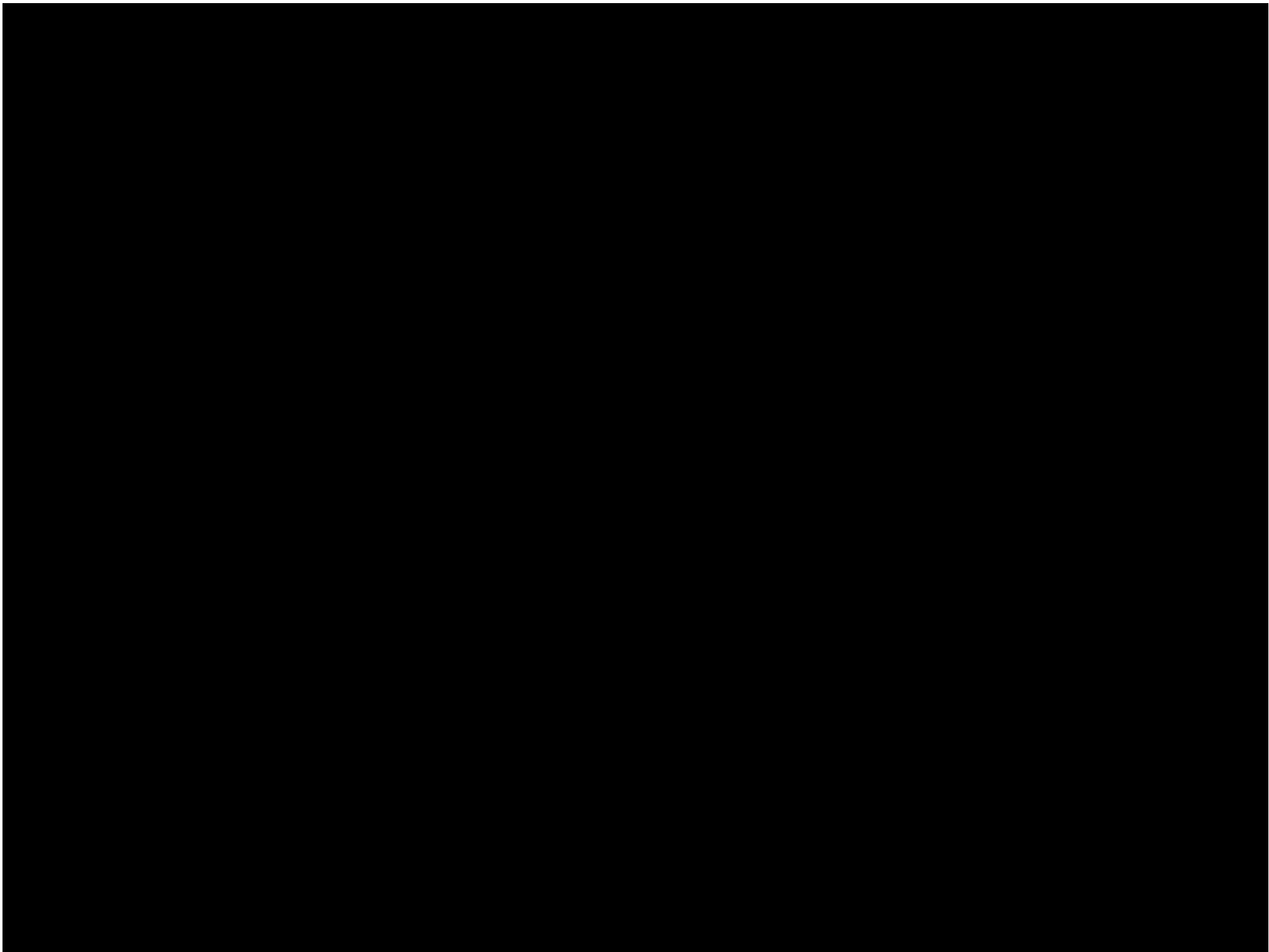
(God regarding Babylon) "See, he is puffed up; his desires are not right—but the righteous will live by his **faith**" (Habakkuk 2:4).

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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Contrasting Zephaniah, Habakkuk, and Lamentations

Zephaniah	Habakkuk	Lamentations
Decades before the fall of Jerusalem (ca. 630)	Just before the fall of Jerusalem (ca. 607-605)	Just after the fall of Jerusalem (586)
God will judge	God, when will you judge?	God has judged
Preview of trouble	Promise of trouble	Presence of trouble

Contrasting Zephaniah, Habakkuk, and Lamentations

Zephaniah	Habakkuk	Lamentations
Declaration	Dialogue	Dirge
Day of the LORD	Dominion of the LORD	Destruction of the LORD
God is in your midst (3:15, 17)	God is your strength (3:19)	God is your portion (3:24)

Theology of Habakkuk

God's Sovereignty

God is sovereign over nature and nations. When the Lord appears in splendor, all of nature, including the mountains (3:6, 10), waters (3:10), and the sun and moon (3:11), responds in fear. The Lord controls the destinies of nations, including even the mighty Babylonians, whom He would raise up (1:6) and then judge (2:4-20; 3:3-15). Neither the nations (2:13) nor their lifeless gods (2:18-20) can resist His sovereign authority and will. The Lord is the "Holy One" (1:12), who sits enthroned over the earth (2:20), a fact that everyone will someday acknowledge (2:14).

*The earth
will be filled with
the knowledge of the glory of the LORD,
as the waters cover the sea.*

Theology of Habakkuk

God as Warrior

Habakkuk's vision of the LORD Almighty, or LORD of Armies (2:13), is one of the most vivid and detailed portrayals of God as warrior. Armed with the elements of the storm and accompanied by pestilence (3:4-5), the LORD appears in anger and causes the entire world to shake with fright (3:6-7, 10-11). Like an ancient Near Eastern warrior-king, the LORD rides on a horse-drawn chariot (3:8, 15), employs arrows and spears (3:9, 11, 14), and pierces the head of his enemy (3:13-14).

THEOLOGY OF HABAKKUK

God as Judge

Since the Lord's "eyes are too pure to look on evil" (1:13), He had to judge these sins of injustice against others:

1. Since Judah was plagued by violence and a disregard for God's standards, the covenant curses would be implemented against the nation (cf. 1:5-11) through the Babylonians as God's instrument of judgment.
2. However, the Babylonians were a proud and unjust nation that greedily built its empire by exploiting and robbing other nations. Once He had used the Babylonians for His purposes, the Lord would judge them as well.



HABAKKUK 2:4

"Behold, as for the proud one, his soul is not right within him; but the righteous will live by his faith."

THEOLOGY OF HABAKKUK

God as Protector of His People

Even though the Babylonian invasion would devastate the land of Judah (3:17), the righteous, who had suffered under the oppression of the unjust (1:4), would be preserved because of their loyalty to God (2:4; 3:18-19). Through the righteous the LORD would preserve His covenant people (1:12), whom He would eventually deliver from their cruel and wicked foreign oppressors (3:13-14).

Babylon and Us

Babylon's Materialism Cult

Trust in Riches
Glory in Wealth
Self Determination
Consumerism
Worship of Self
Pride & Greed



Democracy
&
Capitalism

Belshazzar Humbled

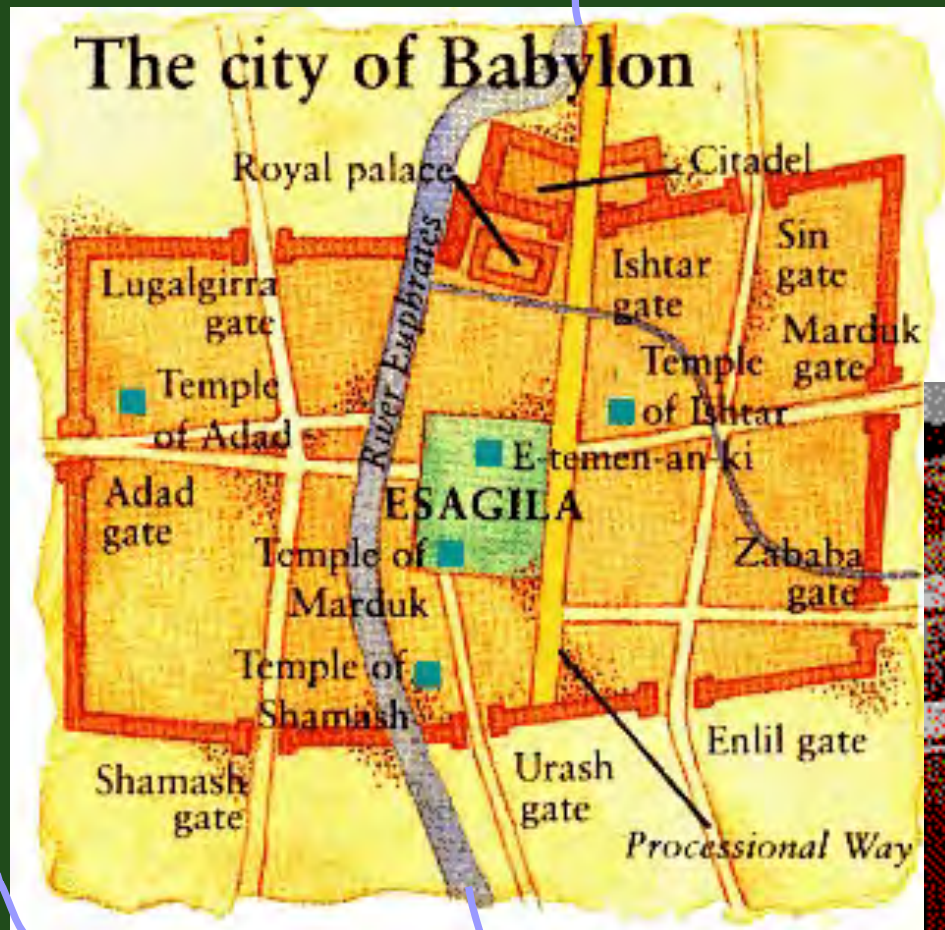


• Rembrandt

Fall of Babylon

BABYLON FELL (539 BC)

Cyrus entered under the water gates



Daniel 5

(Belshazzar's Feast)



Babylon's Fall (Herodotus)

"[Cyrus] placed a portion of his army at the point where the river enters the city, and another body at the back of the place where it issues forth, with orders to march into the town by the bed of the stream, as soon as the water became shallow enough: he then himself drew off with the unwarlike portion of his host, and made for the place where Nitocris dug the basin for the river, where he did exactly what she had done formerly: he turned the Euphrates by a canal into the basin, which was then a marsh, on which the river sank to such an extent that the natural bed of the stream became fordable.

"Hereupon the Persians who had been left for the purpose at Babylon by the river-side, entered the stream, which had now sunk so as to reach about midway up a man's thigh, and thus got into the town.

The History of the Persian Wars 1.191 (430 BC)

Babylon's Fall (Herodotus)

"Had the Babylonians been apprised of what Cyrus was about, or had they noticed their danger, they would never have allowed the Persians to enter the city, but would have destroyed them utterly; for they would have made fast all the street-gates which gave upon the river, and mounting upon the walls along both sides of the stream, would so have caught the enemy, as it were, in a trap. But, as it was, the Persians came upon them by surprise and so took the city. Owing to the vast size of the place, the inhabitants of the central parts (as the residents at Babylon declare) long after the outer portions of the town were taken, knew nothing of what had chanced, but as they were engaged in a festival, continued dancing and reveling until they learnt the capture but too certainly. Such, then, were the circumstances of the first taking of Babylon."

The History of the Persian Wars 1.191 (430 BC)

Babylon and Us

What can we learn from Babylon?

- a) Idols are useless.**
- b) Affluence and materialism do not last.**
- c) Avoid the influences of Babylon that exist today: religious formalism, Catholic traditions, etc.**
- d) Avoid the Babylon of the future.**
- e) Giving people the chance to fail may be the best way to see them succeed.**
 - 1. God's forcing Judah into the most idolatrous country cured his people of their own idolatry.**
 - 2. Be "in the world" rather than be a monk.**

So What Do I Do?

Evil is doomed but the righteous rely on God's promises.

1. Do you keep doing the right thing, regardless of what happens?

2. Do you trust in God despite the perplexities of your life?

Material blessing may or may not come to the righteous, but true rest and joy will come to the one who waits in faith on the LORD. Faith is the victory!



"... but the righteous will live by his faith" (Habakkuk 2:4 Key Verse)

REVIEW QUIZ on Habakkuk

1. Habakkuk complained to God about the injustice and sin of _____.
2. Habakkuk reacts to the news that God will use _____ to correct his people.
3. What key phrase is quoted in the New Testament three times? "The _____ will _____ by _____."
4. This book teaches that the answer to "Why?" is "_____."

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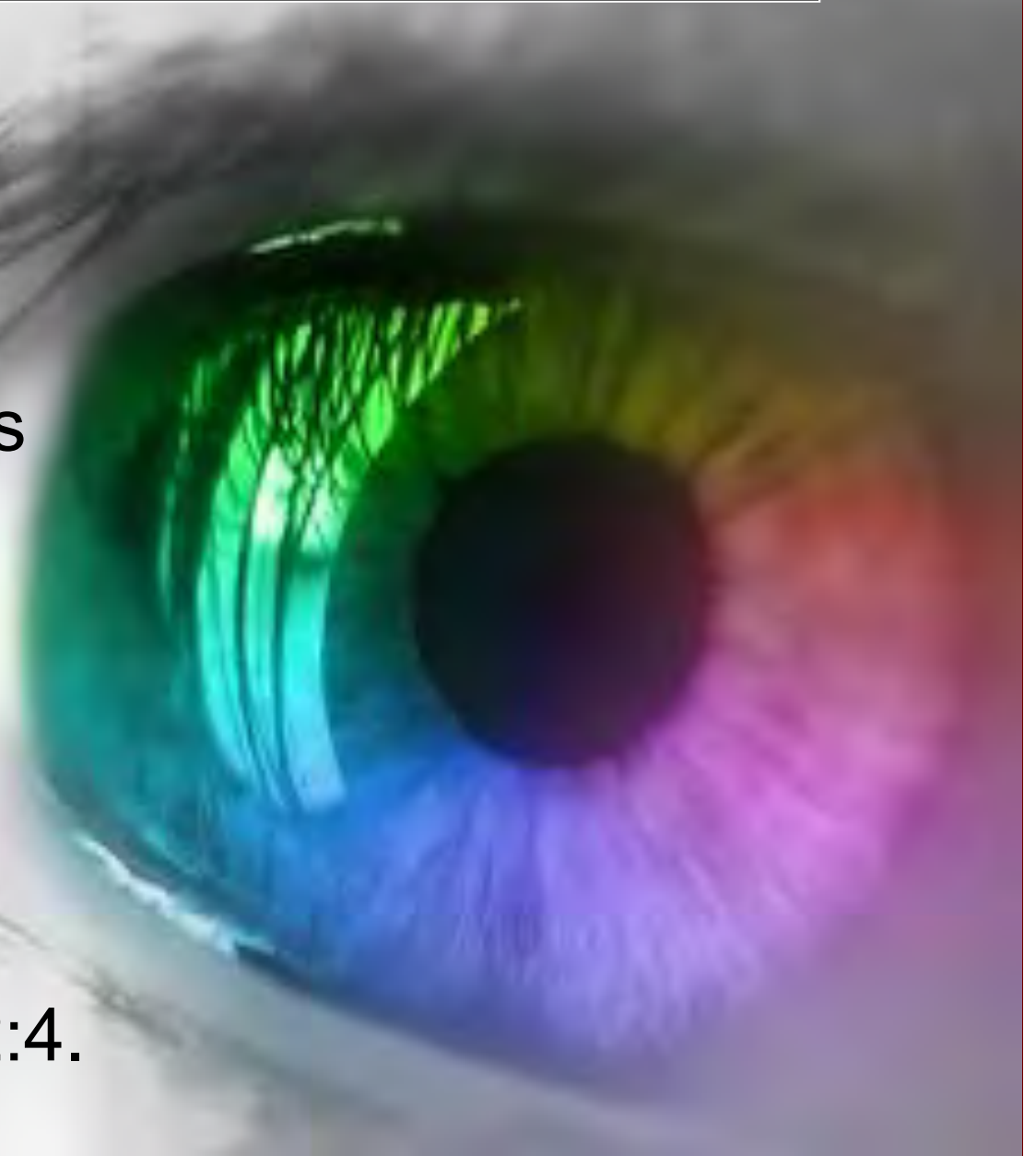
REVIEW QUIZ on Habakkuk

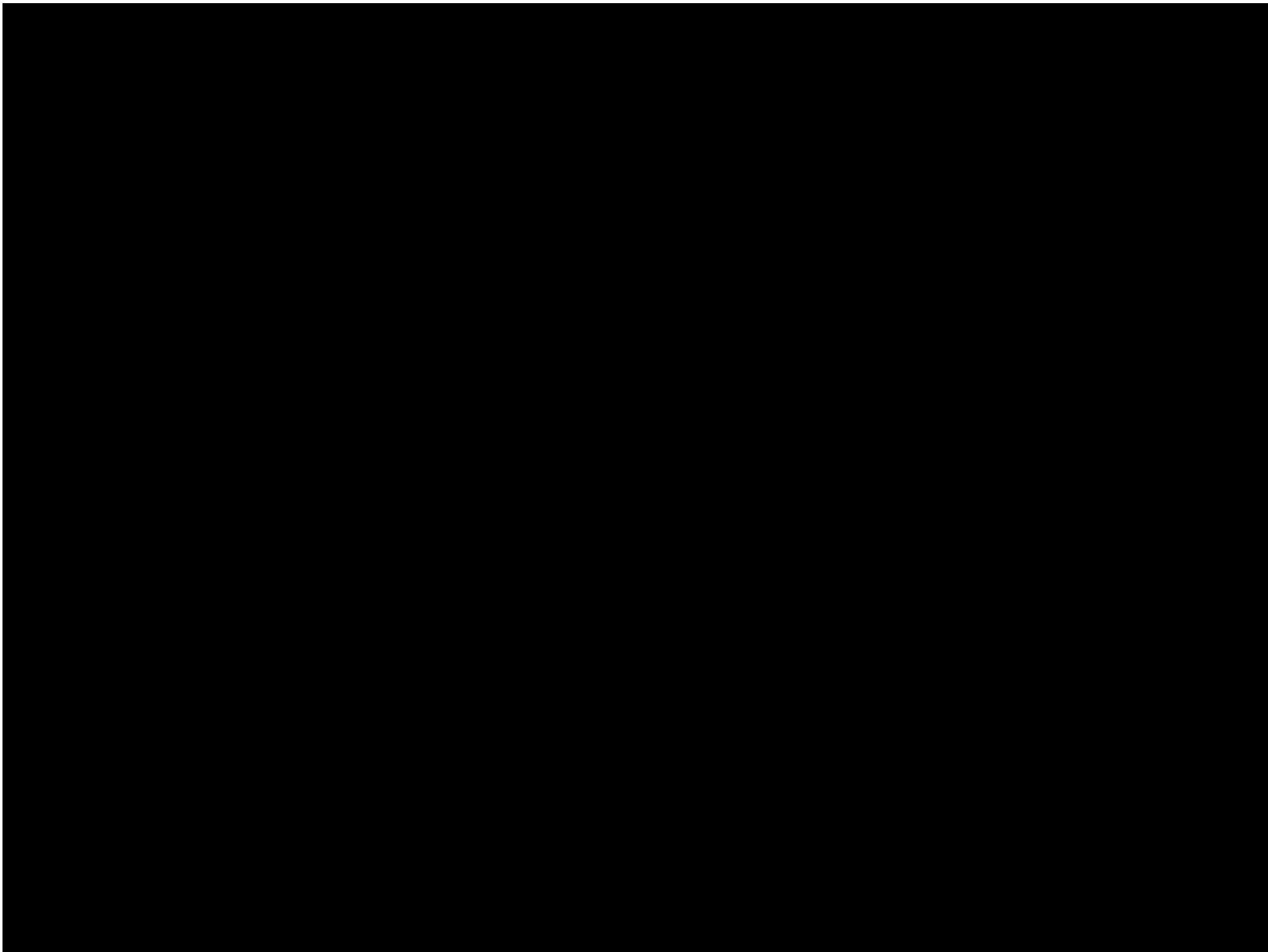
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4. This book teaches that the answer to "Why?" is "Who."

PROBLEM ISSUES

Interpretation of Chapters 1 & 2 (3 views):

- 1) Leave the passages as they are.
- 2) Omit 1:5-11 or to place 1:5-11 before 1:2, as the opening verses of the prophecy.
- 3) Place 1:5-11 after 2:4.






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