

## **8 HABAKKUK IN MODERN TIMES – JULY 1997**

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These notes, composed from 2013 on, are based on taped lectures given between 1977 and 1997 by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., formerly the Head of Theology for the Worldwide Church of God; he resigned in January 1974 because of his unresolved doctrinal issues with the administration. Sadly Dr. Martin died in January 2002, a great loss to the world and to those who seek Biblical truth

**Habakkuk 1:1 The burden which Habakkuk the prophet did see. Habakkuk was prophesying during the post Babylonian period 7<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Century around 626 B.C. according to Usher. However the entire theme is for the “end time”. It is not about the destruction of the Temple by Nebuchadnezzar, or of Herod’s Temple by the Romans in 70 A.D., but is about the time of the Great Tribulation period of seven years, divided into two halves of 3½ years in Daniel and Revelation.**

**In order to get the complete picture, or at least what we know so far that God has revealed to us, we have to look at Daniel, others of the Minor Prophets, the N.T. Gospels and Revelation as well.**

**There will always be some doubt as to the exact timing of these events, but one thing is certain, they will occur EXACTLY on time according to God’s schedule.**

**At the beginning of Habakkuk, the prophet is asking God a question, much as we might often do when praying, as we wonder what the time element might be.**

Habakkuk 1:2 O Lord, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! Even cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save!

He was upset at what he was seeing, the future problems of Judea, he could see the destruction coming. The prophets, although of God, were certainly human and were often negative and pessimistic, after all they died without seeing their prayers answered. They did not realize that two and a half thousand years would flow by before the main events they were given to prophesy about would come to pass.

3 Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance? for spoiling and violence are before me: and there are that raise up strife and contention. 4 Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go

forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.

Habakkuk asks God, "Why are you showing me all this stuff about sin, spoiling and violence, and how the wicked always seem to be more powerful than the righteous, and there being no real justice?"

God, replies: 5 Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvelously: for I will work a work in your days which ye will not believe, though it be told you. 6 For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, (the Babylonians) that bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwellingplaces that are not their's. 7 They are terrible and dreadful: their judgment and their dignity shall proceed of themselves. 8 Their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves: and their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from far; they shall fly as the eagle that hasteth to eat.

This is talking about troops traveling from far away, about the forces being more powerful than anything known at the time and even airborne warfare.

9 They shall come all for violence: their faces shall sup up as the east wind, and they shall gather the captivity as the sand. 10 And they shall scoff at the kings, and the princes shall be a scorn unto them: they shall deride every strong hold; for they shall heap dust, and take it.

Notice here that who is being talked about here now changes from plural to singular.

11 Then shall **his** mind change, and he shall pass over, and offend, imputing this his power unto his god.

This is not always clear in the KJV, but it is important. Nations today are often referred to by the one person who leads them, the President, or the dictator. This is now referring specifically to the "Beast", the "Man of Sin", the "Son of Perdition", the one person who will head up the newly arisen Babylonian Superstate that will in effect be World Government which so many "conspiracy theorists" are saying is now beginning to happen under our noses.

Side B

Remember that the plural words in verses 12-17 of 'they' should actually be singular, "He". This sheds a little more light on the prophecy as a whole. Then Habakkuk observes and answers God, saying:

12 Art thou not from everlasting, O Lord my God, mine Holy One? we shall not die. O Lord, thou hast ordained them for judgment; and, O mighty God, thou hast established them for correction. 13 Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he? 14 And makest men as the fishes of the sea, as the creeping things, that have no ruler over them? 15 They (He takes) take up all of them with the angle, they (He will) catch them in their net, and gather them in their drag: therefore they (he will) rejoice and are (be) glad. 16 Therefore they (he) sacrifice unto their net, and burn incense unto their drag; because by them their portion is fat, and their meat plenteous. 17 Shall they (he) therefore empty their net, and not spare continually to slay the nations?

Habakkuk 2:1 I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved.

2 And the Lord answered me, and said, "Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it."

God was speaking to Habakkuk in a vision, and told him to write it down, and make it plain, so the reader may "run" through it. This is the same language as is used in Daniel, when many shall "run to and fro" which does not mean in trains, planes, and automobiles! It means that those who want to know what God is revealing will be studying the scriptures thoroughly.

Human World Government is coming just before the second advent according to these prophecies. It will appear to be a time of peace and prosperity, so much so that many will think that the Kingdom of God has in fact arrived, but it will not have done so. This will be a grand deception of worldwide proportions. So much so, that even the "elect" of God could almost be led astray. Matthew 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they (He?) shall deceive the very elect.

The apostles originally thought that the Kingdom would come in their lifetimes, but God set Peter and Paul right on this.

3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Some people will mock and say, Matthew 24:48 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;

But God inspires His prophets to say that it WILL happen on schedule.

II Peter 3:2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, (and in the Minor Prophets) and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: 3Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? (God is dead) For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. (It has always been like this.) 5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

Worldly people may have persuaded themselves that the flood never happened and the Bible is not the true Word of God, but in vain.

This vision is for a definite appointed time, “at the end” it (God’s prophecies) shall speak to us and not lie. Now here comes the hint of a doubt about the timing of it. Though it (appear) to tarry; wait for it, because it will surely come, (right on God’s schedule) it will not tarry.

4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his (God’s) faith.

More about the “Beast”:

5 Yea also, because he transgresseth by wine, he is a proud man, neither keepeth at home, who enlargeth his desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, (the whole world) and heapeth unto him all people:

Now come the five “Woes” in v6, v9, v12, v15, v19. Many “5’s” in the Bible. Law 5 chapters, Gospels and Acts 5, Isaiah 5:25; Amos 4:16.

**Woe 1.** Verse 6 Shall not all these take up a parable against him, and a taunting proverb against him, and say, **Woe** to him that increaseth that which is not his! how long? and to him that ladeth himself with thick clay!

7 Shall they not rise up suddenly that shall bite thee, and awake that shall vex thee, and thou shalt be for booties unto them? 8 Because thou hast spoiled many nations, all the remnant of the people shall spoil thee; because of men's blood, and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein.

**Woe 2.** Verse 9 **Woe** to him that coveteth an evil covetousness to his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of evil! 10 Thou hast consulted shame to thy house by cutting off many people, and hast sinned against thy soul. 11 For the stone shall cry out of the wall, and the beam out of the timber shall answer it.

Corruption on a worldwide scale.

**Woe 3** Verse 12 **Woe** to him that buildeth a town with blood, and stablisheth a city by iniquity!

Waging war as part of the "Peace Process." They might think that they are getting away with it, but no, God is in charge.

13 Behold, is it not of the Lord of hosts that the people shall labour in the very fire, and the people shall weary themselves for very vanity? 14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

When? After Christ has returned!

**Woe 4.** Verse 15 **Woe** unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that puttest thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness! 16 Thou art filled with shame for glory: drink thou also, and let thy foreskin be uncovered: the cup of the Lord's right hand shall be turned unto thee, and shameful spewing shall be on thy glory. 17 For the violence of Lebanon shall cover thee, and the spoil of beasts, which made them afraid, because of men's blood, and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein. 18 What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols?

**Woe 5.** Verse 19 **Woe** unto him that saith to the wood, Awake; to the dumb stone, Arise, it shall teach! Behold, it is laid over with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in the midst of it.

Here is the type of idolatry that will fill the earth at this time. It all looks and appears rather wonderful, much like the gold and glitter of many churches today. The inhabitants of the world will not see it as idolatrous at all. Many now say there is nothing wrong with xmas and easter worship, it is not idolatry, but God says it is, and repeats that He hates any form of activity that takes people's minds in the direction of spiritual fornication. Physical fornication under the Law was punished with death, but Christ magnified the Law, and made thinking about it a crime, and especially in a religious context.

Never forget that God is in His Temple and He is in charge.

20 But the Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.

Chapter 3 is a Psalm. One key to better understanding of the Psalms is the fact that the musical instructions are not at the beginning as in modern music, key signature, beats to the bar, style etc., Part of the instruction as to how the piece was to be performed was at the beginning and part at the end. This is explained more in the notes on the Psalms.

Habakkuk 3:1 A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet upon Shigionoth.

2 O Lord, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.

In the middle of the seven years of the Great Tribulation, two definite periods of years 3½ - 3½ people will worry whether God is going to rescue His people, and ask God to remember His mercy.

3 God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount Paran. (Like on Sinai) Selah. (Ponder about that for a while!) His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise.

4 And his brightness was as the light; he had horns coming out of his hand: and there was the hiding of his power.

The splendour of the second coming.

5 Before him went the pestilence, and burning coals went forth at his feet.

6 He stood, and measured the earth: he beheld, and drove asunder the

nations; and the everlasting mountains were scattered, the perpetual hills did bow: his ways are everlasting.

7 I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction: and the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble.

Noah's grandsons were the first to establish Babylon, the 'system' that would hold sway over the whole Middle East, and spreading the dark skinned people spreading to the East to India, and South to Ethiopia. The Babylon's influence would spread ultimately over the whole earth from just after the flood, to the second advent of our Saviour whe Babylon will once again rise to power, not Europe, but the Middle East.

8 Was the Lord displeased against the rivers? Was thine anger against the rivers? was thy wrath against the sea, that thou didst ride upon thine horses and thy chariots of salvation? 9 Thy bow was made quite naked, according to the oaths of the tribes, even thy word. Selah. Thou didst cleave the earth with rivers. 10 The mountains saw thee, and they trembled: the overflowing of the water passed by: the deep uttered his voice, and lifted up his hands on high. 11 The sun and moon stood still in their habitation: at the light of thine arrows they went, and at the shining of thy glittering spear. 12 Thou didst march through the land in indignation, thou didst thresh the heathen in anger.

Salvation for Israel at long last.

13 Thou wentest forth for the salvation of thy people, even for salvation with thine anointed; thou woundedst the head out of the house of the wicked, by discovering the foundation unto the neck. Selah.

Here comes the "time of trouble".

14 Thou didst strike through with his staves the head of his villages: they came out as a whirlwind to scatter me: their rejoicing was as to devour the poor secretly. 15 Thou didst walk through the sea with thine horses, through the heap of great waters. 16 When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble: when he cometh up unto the people, he will invade them with his troops. 17 Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls:

But salvation is nigh.

18 Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

19 The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places.

Then the last instruction for how to perform the Psalm:

To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.