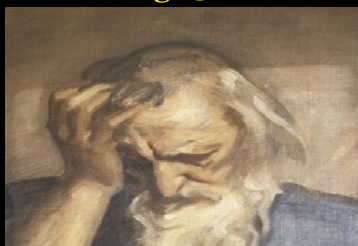


'The Prophet who GRAPPLED with Big Questions'.



'Up Close & Personal'

Probable Date of Habakkuk's Prophecy. 604 BC

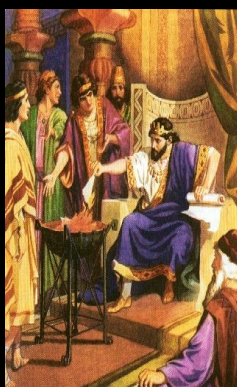
Year	Event.
627 – 605 BC	The emergence of the Babylonian nation in the north whose 1 st king was Nebopolassar.
609 BC	The death of good King Josiah of Judah.
609 - 599 BC	The ascension of bad king Jehoiakim in Judah, began a reign of spiralling immorality consistent with the description given by Habakkuk.
605 BC	Babylon demonstrates its purpose & power at the battle of Carchemish defeating Egypt and Assyria.
598 BC	The final invasion of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar.
Therefore:	Most likely date for the writing of Habakkuk 607-5 BC.

Bad King Jehoiakim.


609 - 599 BC

- Murdered the prophet Uriah
- Responsible for violence and idolatry
- Burdened the people with extreme taxes
- Took the Scroll of the word of God and threw it in the fire.

Now the rest of his acts + the abominations that he did can be found in 2 Chronicles Chapter 36



Background of Habakkuk's World.

Hab. 1: 2-4	Social Injustice In God's Nation.
	Violence and murder.
	Gross social injustice.
	Strife and conflict
	God's law ignored, irrelevant + burnt.
	The rich exploited the poor.
	The guilty robbed the innocent.
	The proud bullied the meek.

Habakkuk is Outraged !

'How can you, a just & righteous God ignore all the evil in Judah ?

Why do you allow violence & injustice to continue despite my complaints to you ?

Why don't you God, do something about this appalling situation?'



Simple Overview.

(J. S. Baxter)

Chapter 1	The Burden
Chapter 2	The Vision
Chapter 3	The Song

? The 1st BIG Question

The philosophical debate

"Our LORD, how long must I beg for your help before you listen? How long before you save us from all this violence? Why do you make me watch such terrible injustice? Why do you allow violence, lawlessness, crime, and cruelty to spread everywhere? Laws cannot be enforced; justice is always the loser; criminals crowd out honest people and twist the laws around" (Hab 1:2-4) CEV.



Why does a righteous God allow evil to prevail ?

God's Reply.

'Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvellously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you'.

(Hab 1:5) KJV.

Prelude to the impending suffering of the nation of Judah.

Babylon the Great.

Hab: 6 - 10.



God will raise up the Babylonians
They are a cruel nation, hungry for power & dominion.
With violence they will sweep down to possess your land.
Their leader is proud and fearsome. (Nebuchadnezzar)
Their weapons and military prowess are superior to Judah's.
Judah's defences will be laughable in the face of this army.
Those who do not die, will be taken captive.
They will attribute their victory over God's people to their false idols.

Habakkuk In Shock !



'When I heard this message, I felt weak from fear, and my lips quivered. My bones seemed to melt, and I stumbled around'.

(Hab 3:16) CEV

? The 2nd BIG Question.

'You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and can not look upon vexation. Why do You look upon those who deal deceitfully? Will you be silent when the wicked swallows one more righteous than he?' (Hab 1:13) MKJ

How can a just God allow someone to punish His people more corrupt than they are?

Habakkuk Waits For the Answers.

Why does God appear to tolerate evil ?

Why does God punish evil with greater evil ?



'I'll just wait here and give God time to consider the deficiencies of His judgement, before He replies.'

Gods Answer - The Vision Chapter 2.

"I will give you my message in the form of a vision.
Write it clearly enough to be read at a glance.
At the time I have decided, my words will come true.
You can trust what I say about the future.'
It may take a long time, but keep on waiting,
it will happen' !



Why does God allow the punishment of Israel to be meted out by a nation more evil than itself ?

Gods answer is:

'Behold, the soul of him is lifted up,
and is not upright; but the just shall
live by his faith'. Hab 2:4 CEV

Greek Philosophy Vs Jewish Philosophy



Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able?
Then he is not omnipotent.
Is he able, but not willing?
Then he is malevolent.
Is he both able and willing?
Then whence cometh evil?
Is he neither able nor willing?
Then why call him God?

- Epicurus



If my body is
enslaved, still my
mind is free.

Sophocles

meestville.com

Hebrew Faith Vs Greek Faith

The word FAITH is found in the OT on one occasion only. Hab 2:2 (MKJV)

The words FAITHFUL, FAITHFUL or FAITHFULNESS are found in the OT over 100 times

The word FAITH is found in the New Testament 227 times.

The Hebrew concept:

Emphasis on the way a person lived.

The Greek concept:

Emphasis on what a person believed.



For this reason Paul
& James had to
labour the fact that
'faith without works
is dead'

Greek thinking took the
Hebrew concept of
'FAITHFULNESS' and
named the mental
component 'FAITH'.

If my body is
enslaved, still my
mind is free.

Sophocles

meestville.com

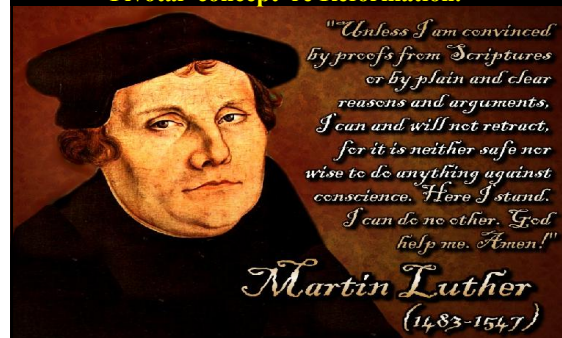
God's Answer to Habakkuk's Dilemma.

"Behold, the soul of him is lifted up, and is not upright;
but the just shall live by his faith". Hab 2:4 CEV.

There are 2 types of people in the world.

THE PROUD WHO REJECT GOD	THE JUST WHO EMBRACE GOD
Self reliant	Reliant on God
Self motivated	God motivated
Self willed	God loving
Self interested	Pleasing God
Strong in his own might	Needing God
Self absorbed	Humble
Woe to this man. He will get what he dishes out.	This faithful man will gain LIFE.

'The Just shall live by Faith'. Pivotal concept re Reformation.



'The Just shall live by Faith'

Romans. 1-11

Galatians: 3 – 11

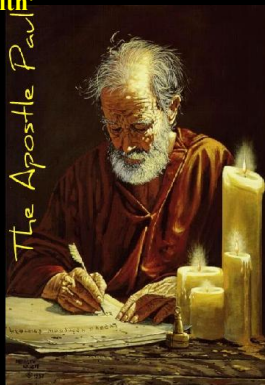
Hebrews: 10:38

Common theme

Salvation does not depend on being a Jew or a Gentile.

Salvation does not depend on keeping law or ritual.

Salvation comes from loving God and living a faithful life.



The Fate of Babylon. 539 BC

'POEM'	They are like the grave – never satisfied.
Woe – 'How terrible'	You are a proud nation of foolish drunkards. Your victims will think you are a joke. The people you have robbed and violated will rise up and take everything you have.
Woe – 'How terrible'	The stones of your great so called 'secure' city, built with the loot of your victims will fall & you will pay with your lives.
Woe – 'How terrible'	All your efforts to expand your kingdom, which you carried out with blood shed & crime will come to nothing.
Woe – 'How terrible'	You will be stripped naked and shamed, like you enjoyed doing to others when you held the drunken orgies you delighted in.
Woe – 'How terrible'	Your wooden idols which you worshipped will be useless, dumb. They will not hear your pleas for help.

Hope in the Midst of Despair.

POEM	The Beginning, the middle and the end of the poem are cushioned with hope.
Don't worry We have a choice. (Verse 4)	'But the just man who lives a faithful life will LIVE'. (ONLY THE PROUD NEED BE AFRAID)
Don't worry God's ultimate plan will prevail (Verse 20)	'For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Jehovah, as the waters cover the sea'.
Don't worry God is in control. (Verse 4)	'But Jehovah is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him'

The Fate of Babylon. 539 BC

'POEM'	Haven't we heard this before. ?
Woe – 'How terrible' The wicked violate the righteous.	You are a proud nation of foolish drunkards. Your victims will think you are a joke. The people you have robbed and violated will rise up and take everything you have.
Woe – 'How terrible' Strife & contention. There is no justice.	The stones of your great so called 'secure' city, built with the loot of your victims will fall & you will pay with your lives.
Woe – 'How terrible' Destruction & violence.	All your efforts to expand your kingdom, which you carried out with blood shed & crime will come to nothing.
Woe – 'How terrible' Immorality prevails.	You will be stripped naked and shamed, like you enjoyed doing to others when you held the drunken orgies you once delighted in.
Woe – 'How terrible' Gods law is ignored	Your wooden idols which you worshipped will be useless, dumb. They will not hear your pleas for help.

THE BIG PICTURE

The Questions	The Answers.
Why does God appear to tolerate evil ?	He doesn't. It is dealt with in God's good time.
Why does God punish evil with 'bigger evil'.	Evil is evil. There is no grading sin. God will eventually remove ALL evil. (whether in Babylon or Judah)
What is the basis for salvation ?	Faithfulness (whether in Babylon or Judah.)



From a shout to A SONG.

Habakkuk Chapter 3.

'O Jehovah, I have heard Your report; **I am afraid.**



O Jehovah, give new life to Your work in the midst of years; in the midst of the years make known; in wrath **remember mercy**'.
Hab 3:2



Snippets from David's Psalms & Deuteronomy

References	Texts
Duet 33.2. The song of Moses The song of Deborah	'Jehovah came from Sinai and rose up from Seir to them. He shone forth from Mount Paran.'
Psalms 77	'Jehovah also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave forth His voice; hailstones and coals of fire. Yea, He sent out His arrows and scattered them; and He shot out lightnings and crushed them. Then the channels of waters were seen, and the foundations of the world were uncovered, at Your rebuke, O Jehovah, at the blast of the breath of Your nostrils. (Psa 18:13-15)
Psalms 68. Psalms 142. Psalms 17 + Others	The earth shook, the heavens also dropped at the presence of God; Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God, the God of Israel. God, when You marched before Your people, when You walked through the wilderness; Selah. Psa 68:8



Chapter 3. Verses 1-19. 28

Remember this & have mercy, O Lord.



'O Lord – Do you remember when you 1st revealed your glory to your people, shooting forth like horns of fire from the lofty heights of Mt Teman & Para, as you took them out of Egypt.

29



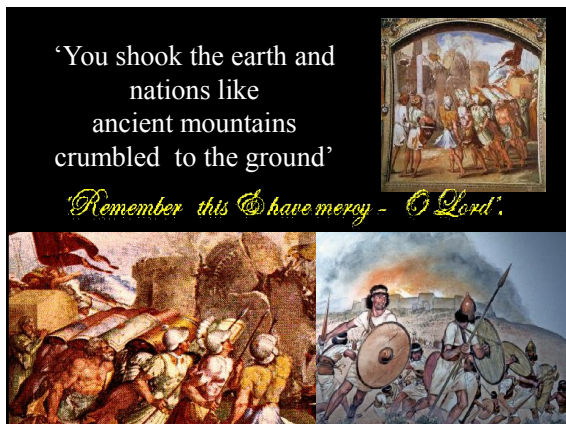
Remember this & Have mercy, O Lord

'And unlike the idols of Egypt & Babylon you have always been their for your people. To their enemies you were like pestilences & plagues; leading from the front, protecting from the rear'.

30


'You shook the earth and nations like ancient mountains crumbled to the ground'

'Remember this & have mercy - O Lord.'



Remember this & have mercy, O Lord.

'Even the fierce Cushans & Midianites who lorded the deserts, witnessed the exodus of your people and trembled at your awesome power'.



'Remember this & have mercy - O Lord'.



"Lord -like a divine warrior you commanded the Jordan to bend to your will, so your people could enter the promised land".

'Remember this & have mercy O Lord'.

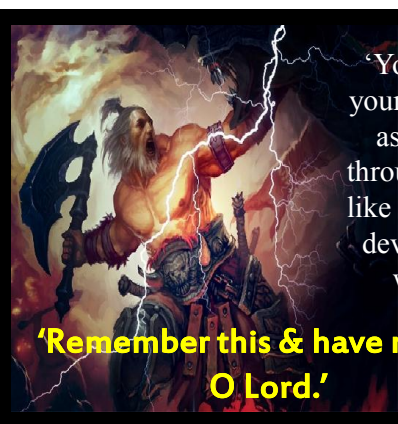


'Like a master marksman, your arrows flew like lightning, piercing the hearts and souls of the enemy'.



Remember this & have mercy - O Lord

'You even made the sun stand still for your anointed Joshua, to achieve victory for your people'.



'Remember this & have mercy, O Lord.'

'You guarded your 'Anointed' as he swept through the land like a whirlwind devouring the wicked'.

'You drowned Pharaoh's army in the Red Sea'



37

Oh Lord, when everything
lovely about Judah
has been destroyed;
When the fig tree no longer
blossoms and the fruit of
the vine
is dried up.

What will I do, O Lord?

38

'You have
answered me -
O Lord.
I will rejoice
in the Lord.
I will have joy
in the God
of MY
salvation'.

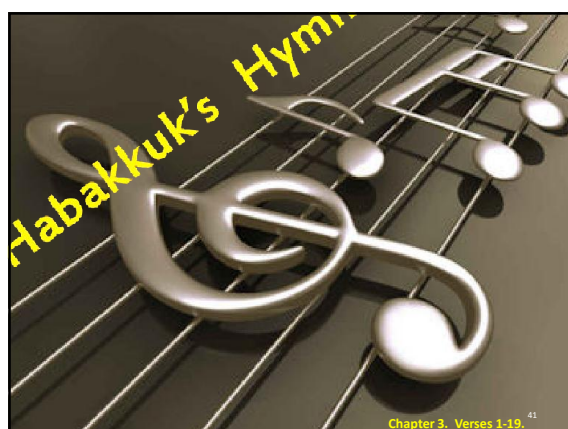
Hab 3:18

39

'I will rest in
God's strength
He will make
my feet to
walk
like hinds feet.'

Hab 3:19

40



Chapter 3. Verses 1-19. 41

The King of Babylon Sings



'I Nebuchadnezzar am
singing & praising the
King of heaven.
Everything He does is
right ... He knows how
to turn a proud person
into a humble man or
woman'

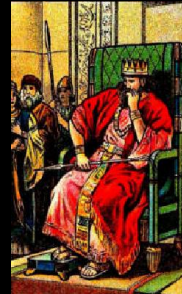
Dan 4:37 Message.

The King of Babylon Sings



‘ I Nebuchadnezzar am singing & praising the King of heaven. Everything He does is right . . . He knows how to turn a proud person into a humble man or woman’ Dan 4:37 Message.

Jehoiakim – King of Judah.



‘You shall not mourn for him . . . nor lament him. He shall be buried with the burial of an ass, drawn and cast forth beyond the gates of Jerusalem.’ Jer 22:18

Who is the real king of Babylon ?

Nebuchadnezzar



Jehoiakim



‘Behold the soul of that is lifted up and is not upright, but the just shall have life because of faithfulness’



‘I will rejoice in the Lord. I will have joy in the God of MY salvation. I will rest in God’s strength He will make my feet to walk like hinds’ feet.’ Hab 3: 18-19

‘The just shall have life because of their faithfulness’