



*"We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ." Col 1:28*

## "God's Sovereignty in Our Prayers"

### Habakkuk 1:5-11

May 19, 2026

#### Hab 1:1-4

- 1 The oracle which Habakkuk the prophet saw.
- 2 **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.**
- 3 Why do You make me see iniquity,  
And cause me to look on **wickedness**?  
Yes, **destruction** and violence are before me;  
**Strife** exists and **contention** arises.
- 4 Therefore **the law is ignored**  
And justice is never upheld.  
For the **wicked surround the righteous**;  
Therefore **justice comes out perverted.**

#### Hab 1:5-11

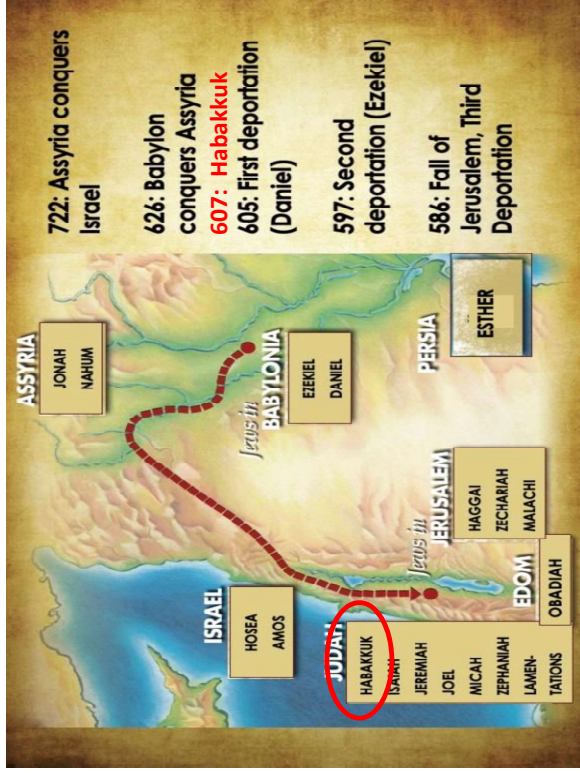
- 5 **"Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because I am doing something in your days —You would not believe if you were told.**
- 6 "For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, That fierce and impetuous people Who march throughout the earth To seize dwelling places which are not theirs.
- 7 "They are dreaded and feared; Their justice and authority originate with themselves.
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- 10 "They mock at kings And rulers are a laughing matter to them. They laugh at every fortress And heap up rubble to capture it.
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- This is God's answer to Habakkuk's prayer.
- It is not what Hab. wanted to hear.
- "Look, observe, be astonished, wonder!"
- The answer does not come in the form of revival for Judah, but judgment on Judah.
- God will use the ungodly, pagan, idolatrous nation of Babylon (Chaldeans) to bring judgment on Judah.
- Hab. is to look at the nations. Babylon is on a tear. They have gone up and conquered Assyria and now will be moving down to capture Judah.

"God had warned His people time and time again, but they wouldn't listen. Prophet after prophet had declared the Word (2Chr 36:14–21), only to be rejected, and He had sent natural calamities like droughts and plagues, and various military defeats, but the people wouldn't listen. Instead of repenting, the people hardened their hearts even more and turned for help to the gods of the nations around them. They had tried God's long-suffering long enough and it was time for God to act"

- Warren Wiersbe



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- God may be silent to Habakkuk but He is actively working.
- Because we get so focused, so narrow, so locked in to how we think God should answer our prayers, we can't accept or believe God's answer if we were told it.
- **Note:** God is sovereign over the nations and the leaders of those nations — Kings, Prime Ministers, Emperors, Monarchs, Chancellors, Sultans, Supreme Leaders, Premiers, Presidents.

### Dan 2:21

21 "It is He who changes the times and the epochs;

**He removes kings and establishes kings;**

### Prov 21:1

1 The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes.

6 "For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, That fierce and impetuous people Who march throughout the earth To seize dwelling places which are not theirs.

- "behold" - **וַיִּבְחַן** (*haneh*) - expresses surprise "Pay attention to this. It will surprise you."
- "I am raising up . . ." — this is a God thing.
- **Chaldeans** — another name for the Babylonians. They were the intellectual group of the Babylonians. Known for their study of astrology and astronomy. The "Wise men" came from this group. Abraham came from the Chaldeans (Gen. 15:7)
- "What?" "What do they have to do with the answer to my prayer?"
- God says, "Let me tell you about them." 21 characteristics —
  1. **Fierce** — discontent, angry.
  2. **Impetuous** — acts quickly without thought. Impulsive.
  3. **March throughout the earth** — they are out to conquer the world.
  4. **Seize** - Capture and conquer land, possessions, homes, buildings.

7 "They are dreaded and feared; Their justice and authority originate with themselves.

5. **Dreaded** — to frighten, to make afraid.
6. **Feared** — terrible, dangerous.
7. **Justice and authority** — they determine what is right and wrong. They are the standard. They can do whatever they want. Lawless. They do not submit to anyone or anything. They are a law unto themselves.

### Judges 21:25

25 In those days there was no king in Israel; **everyone did what was right in his own eyes.**

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• **Note:** God uses 3 different animals to describe the Chaldeans.

8. **Swift** – like **leopards** – 35-36 mph.

9. **Keen** – eager, intense, sharp. Like a **wolf** looking for his evening meal. The Chaldeans will not be kind or gentle.

### Acts 20:29

29 "I know that after my departure **savage wolves** will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

### Matt 7:15

15 "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are **venomous wolves**."

10. **Galloping** – to move at a fast pace, sprinting. They move quickly to their goal.

11. **Come from afar** – distance is not an obstacle. What they desire to conquer, is not impeded by the amount of separation between 2 points.

12. **Swoop down** – like an **eagle** going 100 mph to eat.

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13. **Violence** – to do damage, to do wrong for unjust gain. Judah's violence will be repaid with Chaldean violence.

14. **Horde of faces** – accumulation of faces coming at you, pressing forward with determination.

15. **Collect captives** – capturing their victims is as easy as scooping up sand on a beach or desert.

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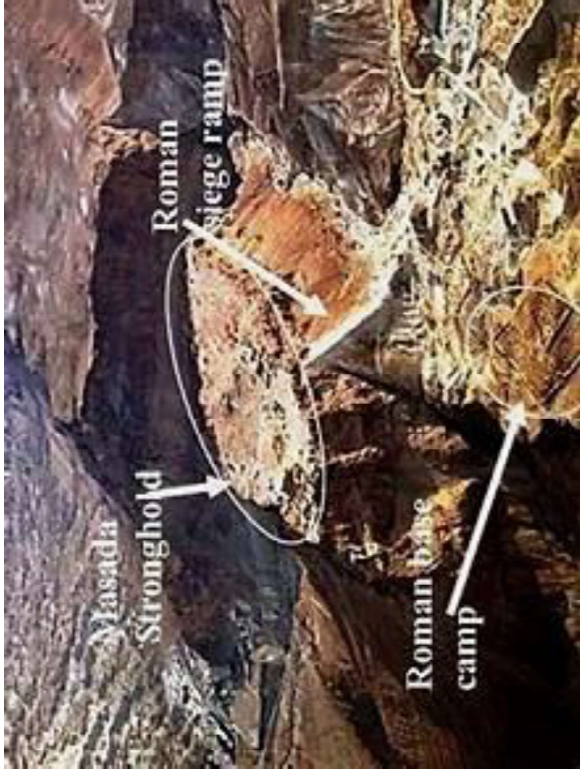
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16. **Mock kings** – scorn, ridicule, mimic, scoff at.

17. **Laugh at rulers** – to make fun of. Think they are a joke. No fear.

18. **Laugh at every fortress** – total confidence they can defeat and destroy any obstacle.

19. **Heap up rubble** – a designed plan to capture a fortress.



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### Application

1. God doesn't always give us the answers we want or expect. Let God be God. He is omniscient we aren't. We lack information.
  2. Silence is an answer.
  3. The true Church in our nation could be approaching the judgment of God.
- 1 Peter 4:17**
- 17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?



11 **"Then they will sweep through like the wind and pass on. But they will be held guilty. They whose strength is their god."**

20. **Sweep through** — like the movement of wind which comes quickly and goes quickly.

21. **Idolatry** — They believe their strength comes from their god. The Chaldeans will be judged by God for their wickedness and idolatry. God is not on their side.

### 1 Sam 16:14

14 Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord terrorized him.

### 1 Kings 22:23

23 "Now therefore, behold, the Lord has put a deceiving spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets; and the Lord has proclaimed disaster against you."

### Judges 9:23

23 Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem

### 1 Cor 5:5

5 I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh,

### Gen 50:20

20 "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result;

### Hos 4:6

6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.

### Amos 8:11-12

11 "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord God,

"When I will send a famine on the land,

Not a famine for bread or a thirst for water,

But rather for hearing the words of the Lord.

12 "People will stagger from sea to sea

And from the north even to the east;

They will go to and fro to seek the word of the Lord,

But they will not find it.

### **Application**

4. God may send revival to America. or any other nation, or He may send judgment,  
“You think it’s bad now? You haven’t seen anything yet.”
5. Our country could be approaching the judgment of God.  
Our moral fabric is quickly deteriorating.