

# Wait for It

## “A Vision, though it Tarries”

### I. SCRIPTURE

**Habakkuk 2:3-4 NKJV – “For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by his faith.”**

### II. WAIT FOR IT

**On Facebook these days, there will often be a video that someone wants us to actually take the time to look at. The video will usually start out by showing us something slow or boring, but they’ll usually preface it with “wait for it” because they know that most of us won’t spend more than a split second to watch it, unless we know that something either exciting or shocking will eventually be coming up. I don’t know about you, but even then, if there is more than five (5) seconds of slow or boring, I’m still not going to wait for it. We’re part of an impatient generation, aren’t we? How much time and patience do you have in these situations? Wasting more than five (5) seconds for me for nonsense is just not going to happen.**

**On the front of today’s bulletin, there is a picture of what appears to be a young lady who has fallen asleep at an airport waiting area, while waiting for an aircraft to arrive. The caption is “though it tarry, wait for it.” Once upon a time – before our current age of terrorism and all the added security that goes along with it, and particularly before all the security added at our airports – one could actually go into an airport like this lady has done. You could walk right in, make your way in and right up to the gate, to wait for the plane to arrive and the passengers to disembark. There were no security barriers or guards that would hinder you. Yes, believe it or not, you could wait for your loved ones there. You could actually greet them with a real-life hug and kiss, and not with one of the idiotic elbow rubs and wearing a mask.**

**Did you know that this phrase of “wait for it” was used many years ago? Did you catch that it was in today’s scripture: “though it tarries, wait for it”? This quote from the little book of Habakkuk was written about 2,600 years ago.<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> *Habakkuk Introduction*. TNIV Study Bible. (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2006). 1546.

### III. HABAKKUK – A VISION & PRAYER FOR TODAY’S WORLD

#### A. A PROPECY FOR TODAY

We don’t know too much about Habakkuk, except that he probably lived about the same time as Jeremiah. For certain, though, we know that he had a vigorous faith.<sup>2</sup> You might remember that we had already read today’s scripture as part this week’s mid-week service, as our study has taken us through the book Hebrews, and we completed the “All About Faith” chapter.

Habakkuk’s book is short; it only has three (3) chapters. It is different than other prophetic books because it is a conversation between Habakkuk and YAHUAH [God] rather than being a prophecy that YAHUAH [God] told Habakkuk to deliver to His people. It is important to understand Habakkuk because I believe that it is a vision for our particular time in the world right now: 5781 (2021-2021).

#### B. HABAKUK’S 1ST COMPLAIN TO YAHUAH [God]

In his first chapter, Habakkuk’s first complaint to YAHUAH [God] is about his people, his church so to speak. He was asking YAHUAH [God], “how long ... must I call [You] for help, but You do not listen? Or cry out to You, ‘Violence!’ but you do not save? Why do you make me look at [the] injustice [of your people]? Why do you tolerate [their] wrongdoing? [Their] destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds... the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. [Your] wicked [people] hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.” (Habakkuk 1:2-4)

#### C. YAHUAH [God]’s 1ST ANSWER

Then YAHUAH [God] answers Habakkuk; He says, “Look at the nations and watch— and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told. I am raising up the Babylonians, that ruthless and impetuous people, who sweep across the whole earth to seize dwellings not their own. They are a feared and dreaded people; they are a law to themselves and promote their own honor. Their horses are swifter than leopards, fiercer than wolves at dusk. Their cavalry gallops headlong; their horsemen come from afar. They fly like an eagle swooping to devour; they all come intent on violence. Their hordes advance like a desert wind and gather prisoners like sand. They mock kings and scoff at rulers. They laugh at all fortified cities; by building

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid. 1546.

earthen ramps they capture them. Then they sweep past like the wind and go on— guilty people, whose own strength is their god.” (Habakkuk 1:5-11)

#### D. HABAKKUK’S 2ND COMPLAIN TO YAHUAH [God]

Now notice Habakkuk’s second complaint to YAHUAH [God]. It is striking because he asks YAHUAH [God] this question: “How could a good and just God use a more wicked nation [the Babylonians] to punish a less wicked one [the Israelites, his church]?” For Habakkuk had seen the rapid progress of Judah’s moral and spiritual deterioration. He was deeply troubled by this, and that is where his prayer began: about their violence, their destruction, their lawlessness, their strife toward each other, and how they were hemming in those [the rest of the church] who were righteous within.<sup>3</sup>

#### E. YAHUAH [God]’s 2ND ANSWER

YAHUAH [God]’s answer to Habakkuk’s 2nd complaint is a prophecy, and it includes today’s scripture. He tells Habakkuk, “write down [this] prophecy and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For [this] vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by his faith.”

#### IV. YAHUAH [GOD] DEFINES WHO IS WICKED WITHIN THE CHURCH

And, so it is... that within the prophesy that YAHUAH [God] communicates to Habakkuk, that Habakkuk faithful records on tables so that we can read it today, YAHUAH [God] provides us with a very clear picture of the type of people Whom He considers to be “wicked” and “proud”, who claim to be part of His chosen:

Indeed, they transgresses because of their intoxication, they are proud, they do not stay at home. Because they enlarge their desire as hell; they cannot be satisfied; they are like death. (Habakkuk 2:2-5a)

They want to increase themselves with what is not theirs, who loads themselves up with many pledges. [But] will not your creditors rise up suddenly? Will they not awaken who oppress you? And, you will become their booty. Because you have plundered others, all the remnant of the people shall plunder you, because of the blood that you have shed. (Habakkuk 2:6b-7)

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<sup>3</sup> *Introduction to Habakkuk*. ESV Study Bible. (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008). 1719-1720.

**They have built their house by unjust gain, setting their nests on high, that they may be delivered from the power of disaster! They give shameful counsel to their house, cutting off many peoples, and sin against their soul. (Habakkuk 2:9-10)**

**They give drink to their neighbor, pouring out from their bottle until they are drunk, so that they may look at their neighbor's naked bodies! [But] they are filled with shame instead of glory. For now, it will be their turn to drink! For they will be exposed [in their own nakedness as] as uncircumcised! (Habakkuk 2:5-16, comment)**

**They have made a profit on the images that they have made, they have carved. It is a molded image, a teacher of lies... that they have made it, trusting it to be something it is not. But isn't it just a mute idol? But, woe to them who says to wood, 'Awake!' To a silent stone, 'Arise! It shall teach!' It may be overlaid with gold and silver, yet there is no breath in their idols at all. (Habakkuk 2:18-19)**

**This is a sad and frightening image of a very evil people, a people who claimed to be part of the YAHUAH [God]'s chosen people. Yet this is also a vivid description of the Church today, including some people who claim today to have a valid place, a valid nest within the body of MESSIAH [Christ]. This is a proud people, who sin because of their drink, their drugs, their intoxication of power and greed, whose desire is as large as hell. They do not keep to themselves. They are not content with what they have been able to earn by an honest, patient labor... but they are constantly wanting more. Yes, they desire more. Many will even apply for new credit cards, a new car loan, a new or bigger line of credit, or maybe a new or second mortgage or something more. They are pledging their property, their very own lives and the lives of their family and friends a pledges, and for what? All for the purpose of satisfying an insatiable greed that they cannot extinguished... unless they lay it at their Savior's feet. And, for all of this, at some point in the future, the real owners – the banks, the creditors, the neighbors, and those others who have been used – will now eventually and suddenly arise up to oppress them, and that will become their booty.**

## **V. THE PRAYER OF THE RIGHTEOUS DURING THIS TIME OF WICKEDNESS**

**Brothers and sister here today, who are here in person as well as those who are watching today's video...**

**Today, I am going to make Habakkuk's prayer response to YAHUAH [God]'s prophecy my own prayer, a prayer of the faithful remnant here today. I suggest that you make it your own prayer here today too. Yes, please join me in prayer now. Let's also agree now to pray and fast tomorrow for the Day of Prayer and Fasting that Pastor**

Franklin Graham has called the followers of YAHUSHA [Jesus] to do, for our elections, our land and our people. Let's humble ourselves again now... let's pray and seek YAHUAH [God]'s face again now... let's turn again now from being a "wicked" and "proud" person. Let's pray together now:

YAHUAH [O LORD], I have heard Your speech [today, Your prophecy] and was afraid; YAHUAH [O LORD], revive Your work in the midst of [our] years! In the midst of [our] years make it known; in [Your] wrath [please] remember mercy. [For you are the] ELOAH [God] come from Teman, The Holy One from Mount Paran. Your glory covers the heavens, and the earth is full of Your praise. Your brightness is like the light; You have rays flashing from Your hand, and Your power has been hidden. [And especially now, we need to remember that] before You has gone pestilence, and fever will follow at Your feet. You stand [now] and measured our earth; You look and will startle the nations and the everlasting mountains will be scattered, and the perpetual hills bowed down. Your ways are everlasting... (Habakkuk 3:1-6)

Dear Father, as I now recite your prophecy written down in stone many years ago, in your awesome presence and knowing the terrible things that you are predicting that are soon to happen, that we now pause for moment to claim your promise to Habakkuk, that "though [your vision] tarries, [we will] wait for it [and pray that we are ready]; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. [For we] behold [that] the proud, their soul is not upright in them; yet the just shall live by his faith."

As we see our world deteriorating, we ask you "YAHUAH [O LORD], were You displeased with the rivers, was Your anger against the rivers, was Your wrath against the sea, that You rode on Your horses, Your chariots of salvation? [For] Your bow was made quite ready; oaths were sworn over Your arrows. You divided the earth with rivers. The mountains saw You and trembled; the overflowing of the water passed by. The deep uttered its voice, and lifted its hands on high. The sun and moon stood still in their habitation; at the light of Your arrows they went, at the shining of Your glittering spear. You marched through the land in indignation; You trampled the nations in anger. You went forth for the salvation of Your people, for salvation with Your Anointed. You struck the head from the house of the wicked, by laying bare from foundation to neck. You thrust [them] through with [their] own arrows..." (Habakkuk 3:8-14a)

You know dear Father, "when I heard [this today], my heart pounded, my lips quivered at the prophecy; decay crept into my bones; yet we will [agree to] wait patiently [as the world] comes up to the people [who call themselves yours], and You

will invade these people with their troops [the troops Babylon, of the world]... Yes, we will wait patiently for this day this day of calamity to come..." (Habakkuk 3:16)

As so here we are today, and we also remember now as we reflect on the oncoming onslaught of the people by the troops of Babylon, that you also forewarn at the end of The Book that "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the Great! [For] she has become a dwelling for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit..." (from Revelation 18:2), and "that we are to come out of her, so that we are not are not to share in her sins, and soon that we will not to receive her plagues" (from Revelation 18:4).

Yes, "though [your prophecy] tarries, [we will] wait for it [and pray that we are ready]; because it will surely come, it will not tarry." (Habakkuk 2:3) And, "though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive tree may fail, and the fields yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls— yet we will rejoice in YAHUAH [the LORD], we will joy in ELOHAI [my God] of my salvation. For YAHUAH ADONAI [The LORD God] is our strength; He will make our feet like deer's feet, and He will make us walk on our high hills." (Habakkuk 3:16-19a)

Dear family and friends here today. Let's heed YAHUAH [God]'s command to Habakkuk when He said to "write this vision [and] make it plain on tablets, so [we] may run who read it", who hear it (Habakkuk 2:2). I've read it today; I've heard it today. Haven't you? Then, let's run together now into the loving arms of our Savior, our ADONAI YAHUSHA HA'MASHIACH [Lord Jesus Christ], where we will find our strength... and into the path of YAHUAH ELOHAYNU [The Lord our God] where we will find joy as we walk on the high hills with Him: the place where He guides us.

Now brothers and sister... I pray that He may richly bless you as you leave this place today with His word.

Amen.

#### References & Credits:

1 "Habakkuk Introduction." TNIV Study Bible. (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2006). 1546.

2 "Ibid. 1546.

3 "Introduction to Habakkuk. ESV Study Bible. (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008). 1719-1720