

# Habakkuk 1

"After the death of Solomon, the nation of Israel was split into two kingdoms: the northern kingdom and the southern kingdom. The northern kingdom was composed of ten tribes and was called Israel. Israel went into idolatry immediately after it split from the other two tribes. In 722 B.C. it fell to the Assyrians.

The southern kingdom was composed of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin. It is often referred to simply as Judah. Its capital was Jerusalem.

At the time Habakkuk was written, the northern kingdom had already gone into captivity. Habakkuk prophesied sometime between 621 B.C. and 609 B.C.

The Babylonian captivity of the southern kingdom was on the horizon in Habakkuk's time and started in 605 B.C. when Nebuchadnezzar attacked Jerusalem and took a handful of nobles and princes to Babylon. Daniel was in that group. Then in 597 B.C. when King Jehoiachin rebelled, Nebuchadnezzar again besieged Jerusalem and took ten thousand captive. Among that group was Ezekiel. The final siege and destruction of Jerusalem occurred in 586 B.C. when the city and the temple were destroyed."

- Kay Arthur (9)

"Habakkuk prophesies in Judah after the death of King Josiah, who had tried to reform a society, which was reeling from the moral corruption caused by [Kings] Manasseh and Amon. But Josiah's reform efforts perished with him, and moral and spiritual corruption plagued Judean society once again. Babylon was a growing threat to Judah. In the book of Habakkuk, they are referred to as the Chaldeans, named after the region of their rulers."

- The Study Bible for Women (1200)

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## Day 1

### Read Habakkuk 1:1-4

#### Habakkuk's lament

1. What tone do the opening verses of Habakkuk convey?

**IT'S HEBREW TO ME:** "oracle/ burden" OT:4853 *massa'*; a burden; specifically, tribute...figuratively, an utterance, chiefly a doom (*Compare Isaiah 13:1; Nahum 1:1*)

**FYI:** "The name **Habakkuk** is derived from the Hebrew verb 'embrace.' His name probably means, 'He Who Embraces' or 'He Who Clings.' It is an appropriate name for both the prophet and the book, because Habakkuk comes to a firm faith through grappling with tough questions." - David Guzik

"The book of Habakkuk starts with a sob and ends with a song. Its three chapters trace a personal struggle with Habakkuk rather than a public address to the people. Chapters 1-3 focus on Habakkuk's *dialogue with God*. Chapter 3 records the *praise to God*, he offered after working through what God had revealed to him about Babylon."

- Charles Swindoll (73)

"At this time Judah was probably under King Jehoiakim, who was ambitious, cruel and corrupt. Habakkuk describes the social corruption and spiritual apostasy of Judah in the late seventh century B.C." - The NIV Study Bible (1388)

2. With what concerns was Habakkuk struggling in 1:2? What does asking these difficult questions reveal about Habakkuk's relationship with the Lord?

**FYI:** "**Violence** (*hamas*) denotes flagrant violation of moral law by which man injures primarily his fellowman (e.g., [Gen 6:11](#)). Its underlying meaning is one of ethical wrong, of which physical brutality is only one possible expression... *Hamis* occurs six times in Habakkuk (1:2, 3, 9, 2:8, 17)." - The Expositor's Bible Commentary

"The basic theme is age-old: Why does evil seem to go unpunished? Why does God not respond to prayer?" - The NIV Study Bible (1388)

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3. Why wasn't God *hearing* and *saving* the nation?

- Isaiah 59:1-2
  
- Ezekiel 39:23-24

**FYI:** "When God redeemed His people from Egypt, He told them exactly how they were to live. He set before them ten major commandments, along with many regulations for daily living. The first commandment was to love Him above all else...(Exodus 20:5-6) To fail to love God above all else is to play the *harlot* with other lovers. - Kay Arthur (27,28,30)

4. What choices had Moses presented to the nation of Israel? What different outcomes or consequences were connected with these choices? Deuteronomy 30:15-20

5. What did Moses understand about the reason for the success and safety of the nation? Exodus 33:14-16 (See also Deuteronomy 31:6; contrast Deut. 31:17b)

6. What had King Solomon asked of God if the wrong choices were made? 1 Kings 8:35-39, 46-50

- What does this say about the opportunity that was open to Israel even in the midst of backsliding?

7. How well did the Southern Kingdom of Judah learn from the Northern Kingdom's downfall? Jeremiah 3:6-10; 2 Kings 17:18-19 (*Note the words that God used to describe Israel and Judah and their practices.*)

8. How corrupt did the Judah's religious practices become? Ezekiel 16:51 (*The term "Samaria" is a reference to the Northern Kingdom.*)

- How did God describe these practices in Isaiah 29:13?

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9. List the words in 1:2-3 that describe the problems (i.e. “violence, injustice/iniquity”) that existed in Habakkuk’s day.

10. What *personal* complaint did Habakkuk express? 1:3 (List or circle the words that Habakkuk began his questions with in 1:2 and 1:3 . Put a question mark in the column of your scripture sheets by each verse that has a question: 1:2,3,12,13,17.)

- Compare how Jeremiah (a contemporary of Habakkuk) felt. Jeremiahs 9:1,2

11. Underline the descriptions of the corrupt and violent practices of the people and leaders.

- Jeremiah 7:9-11 "Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known, 10 and then come and stand before me in this house, which bears my Name, and say, "We are safe"--safe to do all these detestable things? 11 Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you? But I have been watching! declares the LORD. NIV
- Ezekiel 9:9 Then He said to me, "The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is very, very great, and the land is filled with blood and the city is full of perversion; for they say, "The LORD has forsaken the land, and the LORD does not see!" NASU
- Ezekiel 22:12; 29 "In you they have taken bribes to shed blood; you have taken interest and profits, and you have injured your neighbors for gain by oppression, and you have forgotten Me," declares the Lord GOD. NASU
- Ezekiel 23:37-39 "For they have committed adultery, and blood is on their hands. Thus they have committed adultery with their idols and even caused their sons, whom they bore to Me, to pass through the fire to them as food. 38 "Again, they have done this to Me: they have defiled My sanctuary on the same day and have profaned My sabbaths. 39 "For when they had slaughtered their children for their idols, they entered My sanctuary on the same day to profane it; and lo, thus they did within My house. NASU
- Micah 3:9-11 Hear this, you leaders of the house of Jacob, you rulers of the house of Israel, who despise justice and distort all that is right; 10 who build Zion with bloodshed, and Jerusalem with wickedness. 11 Her leaders judge for a bribe, her priests teach for a price, and her prophets tell fortunes for money. NIV

**Digging Deeper**

For more descriptions of the corruption in the land from the people in power see: Jeremiah 2:8; 5:26-28,31; 8:10-11; 10:21

12. List the phrases in 1:4 that describe what had happened to law and justice in the land.

(Compare Isaiah 59:4) [Different translations of Habbakuk 4:1a are: “Therefore the law is ignored” (NAS)/ “is paralyzed” (NIV)/ “is powerless” (NKJV)/ “is slacked” (KJV)].

**FYI: "For the wicked surround the righteous:** There were always people who were faithful to the Lord, a righteous remnant. Here the godly were restricted in what they could say and do because of the evil that surrounded them."  
- The Nelson Study Bible (1520)

13. Underline what the prophets said had happened to truth and knowledge.

- Jeremiah 7:8 "Behold, you are trusting in deceptive words to no avail. NASU
- Jeremiah 7:24 "Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in their own counsels and in the stubbornness of their evil heart, and went backward and not forward. NASU
- Jeremiah 7:28 "You shall say to them, "This is the nation that did not obey the voice of the LORD their God or accept correction; truth has perished and has been cut off from their mouth. NASU
- Isaiah 65:1-3 I said, "Here am I, here am I,' To a nation which did not call on My name. "I have spread out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, Who walk in the way which is not good, following their own thoughts, A people who continually provoke Me to My face, NASU
- Isaiah 59:14-15 Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands far away; For truth has stumbled in the street, And uprightness cannot enter. 15 Yes, truth is lacking; And he who turns aside from evil makes himself a prey. NASU
- Jeremiah 9:3-6 "They bend their tongue like their bow; Lies and not truth prevail in the land; For they proceed from evil to evil, And they do not know Me," declares the LORD. 4 "Let everyone be on guard against his neighbor, And do not trust any brother; Because every brother deals craftily, And every neighbor goes about as a slanderer. 5 "Everyone deceives his neighbor And does not speak the truth, They have taught their tongue to speak lies; They weary themselves committing iniquity. 6 "Your dwelling is in the midst of deceit; Through deceit they refuse to know Me," declares the LORD. NASU

14. Underline the attitudes and actions that Jeremiah (a contemporary of Habakkuk) described as reasons for Israel's downfall.

- Jeremiah 5:3 ...they refused to take correction. They have made their faces harder than rock; They have refused to repent. NASU
- Jeremiah 5:23 "But this people has a stubborn and rebellious heart; They have turned aside and departed." NASU
- Jeremiah 7:25-26 "...I have sent you all My servants the prophets, daily rising early and sending them. 26 "Yet they did not listen to Me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck; they did more evil than their fathers. 27 "You shall speak all these words to them, but they will not listen to you; and you shall call to them, but they will not answer you. 28 "You shall say to them, "This is the nation that did not obey the voice of the LORD their God or accept correction...NASU
- Jeremiah 8:5-6 Why then have these people turned away? Why does Jerusalem always turn away? They cling to deceit; they refuse to return. 6 I have listened attentively, but they do not say what is right. No one repents of his wickedness, saying, "What have I done?" Each pursues his own course like a horse charging into battle. NIV
- Jeremiah 8:12 Are they ashamed of their loathsome conduct? No, they have no shame at all; they do not even know how to blush...
- Jeremiah 16:11-12 "It is because your forefathers have forsaken Me,' declares the LORD, "and have followed other gods and served them and bowed down to them; but Me they have forsaken and have not kept My law. "You too have done evil, even more than your forefathers; for behold, you are each one walking according to the stubbornness of his own evil heart, without listening to Me. NASU

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15. Underline what follows when injustice reigns.
- Psalm 12:8 The wicked freely strut about when what is vile is honored among men. NIV
  - Proverbs 29:2,4 When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan...By justice a king gives a country stability, but one who is greedy for bribes tears it down. NIV
  - Prov. 29:16 When the wicked thrive, so does sin, but the righteous will see their downfall. NIV
16. Consider God's plan/vision for establishing Israel as a nation. (Genesis 12:2,3; Isaiah 49:6; Psalm 67:1,2) How do you think history might have been rewritten if Israel had followed God's ways?
- How was Israel's disobedience more than just breaking rules?

**FYI:** The "mission to and for the peoples of the earth...can be attested from the ...preaching of prophets...who addressed twenty-five chapters of their prophecies to the Gentile nations of their day (Isa. 13-23; Jer. 46-51; Ezek. 25- 32). There are more verses dedicated to the foreign nations in those twenty-five chapters of the three major prophets alone than are found in all of the Pauline prison epistles in the N.T. There can be little doubt that God was more than mildly interested in winning the nations outside of Israel."  
- Walter C Kaiser Jr

**Applying the Word:** When have you found yourself asking God "How long?" or "Why?" What are some of the big "why" questions you have asked? How has He comforted you concerning those questions?

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## Day 2

### Read Habakkuk 1:5-11

#### God's response

17. What did God tell Habakkuk to do? (Note the verbs.) 1:5 (How did Paul apply these words to his day? Acts 13:41)

**FYI:** "God is not offended by questions or expression of confusion and concern. He willingly responded to Habakkuk's questions. God does see."  
- The Study Bible for Women (1201)

"**Look...watch**...These imperatives are in the present tense, implying that God is already doing something."  
- Africa Bible Commentary (1064)

18. By contrast, what had the (false) prophets been telling the people? Jeremiah 5:12; 6:14

19. What was the “*something*” God was going to do? (literally: *a work I will work*) 1:6a

20. What had God told Moses He would do if the nation turned against Him? Deuteronomy 4:25-27 (Contrast Exodus 23:22)

- What would being cast out of the land cause the people to do? Deuteronomy 4:29-31

21. Underline what God would ultimately accomplish through the captivity of the nation.

- Ezekiel 11:17-20 "Therefore say, "Thus says the Lord GOD, "I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries among which you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel." 18 "When they come there, they will remove all its detestable things and all its abominations from it. 19 "And I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them. And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, 20 that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God. NAS
- Ezekiel 36:23-25 "I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD," declares the Lord GOD, "when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight. 24 "For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. 25 "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

### **The Proud**

22. From 1:6-10, what picture do you get of the Chaldean’s character and reputation?

**FYI: 1:6 Chaldeans.** The “Chaldeans” are the Babylonians. Originally the Chaldeans proper occupied only southern Babylonian, where Abraham’s initial home had been (“Ur of the Chaldees”), but they soon came to dominate the whole region once controlled by Assyria.”  
- Henry Morris

“These images from the animal kingdom present a vivid picture of the ferocious nature of this world power. Habakkuk had observe violence in Judah (vs. 2), but Babylon *relished* violence.”  
- The Nelson Study Bible (1520)

23. What was the Babylonians’ standard for right and wrong? 1:7

24. What is one of the Babylonians’ fighting strategies? 1:10b

**FYI: "Heap up rubble/dust. ..."**refers to the strategy of building a long ramp up to a city’s wall, enabling them to scale the wall and capture the city.”  
- Henry Morris

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25. From 2 Kings 25:1-7, how did the Babylonians treat the king of Judah?

- What did they do to Jerusalem? 2 Kings 25:8-21

26. What indictment did the Lord give against Babylon? 1:11b (Compare Jeremiah 25:11,12)

27. When God removed His protection, evil nations quickly conquered and captured the nation of Israel. Do you think these nations could have fulfilled God's purpose in causing Israel to face the consequences of their disobedience, without falling into violence and sins themselves and facing God's judgment?

28. If the people of Judah had responded to Habakkuk's message as Nineveh did with Jonah, what do you think the Lord would have done? (See Jonah 3:10; Jeremiah 18:7-8)

***FYI: They will be held guilty:*** "In spite of their power, pride and impiety, the Babylonian are still subject to the power of the Almighty God. He can use even the ungodly to accomplish his purposes. In times of trouble, we need to fix our eyes on the God of Habakkuk, a God who is all powerful, holy and just, rather than on the tyranny of sin and injustice or on spiritual powers and ungodly human beings. All of the forces that oppose God are still subject to him, and 'if God is for us, who can be against us?' (Roman 8:31-39) - Africa Bible Commentary (1064)

***Applying the Word:*** How can parents, teachers, and governments enact consequences to disobedience in a way that upholds God's justice and grace?

### Day 3

#### Read Habakkuk 1:12

#### Habakkuk's focus on God

29. In the face of this calamity, what focus did Habakkuk choose? 1:12a

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30. Underline the kind of focus and trust in the LORD we should have.

- Psalm 25:15 My eyes are continually toward the LORD, For He will pluck my feet out of the net. NASU
- Psalm 62:8 Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. NASU
- Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. NASU
- Isaiah 26:3-4 "The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, Because he trusts in You. 4 "Trust in the LORD forever, For in GOD the LORD, we have an everlasting Rock. NASU
- John 15:4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. NASU
- Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. NASU

31. What did Habakkuk recognize about God's dealings with his people? 1:12b (See Jeremiah 46:28) *List the words that describe what God was accomplishing with the Babylonians.*

**FYI:** "What did Habakkuk mean by the term '[not] die'? Surely when the Babylonians went up against God's chosen in battle, people would die! Yes, some would die physically. But Israel would not die as a nation - the nations would not be wiped out...Because God is a covenant-keeping God, because He can neither lie nor alter the words which have gone forth from His mouth, Israel will always remain a nation. Because Habakkuk grasped this truth by faith, he knew that they would not die. God would chasten them as a nation, but He would not exterminate them as a people." - Kay Arthur (76,79)

**IT'S HEBREW TO ME:** "**correct/punish**" "The verb 'punish' (*yakah*) has a varied usage, with the underlying judicial meaning of "establishing what is just or right." Frequently it signifies correction, verbal or otherwise, of an offender (e.g., Lev 19:17; Job 5:17; Ps 6:1). In these contexts "punish" generally implies a chastening that is redemptive rather than destructive...'judgment' ...here implies the restoration of rule and authority through removal of the causes of disorder." - The Expositor's Bible Commentary

"When a holy God judges His people, it is always to discipline. If sin goes on and on, unchecked, it only encourages us to sin more." - Kay Arthur (103)

32. Consider each of the titles of God in 1:12. Read through the additional verses in the chart and record what that reveals to you about God's character and ability.

Titles of God	Attributes of God
<p><b>"from everlasting"</b></p> <p>Deuteronomy 33:27 "The eternal God is a dwelling place, And underneath are the everlasting arms; And He drove out the enemy from before you..." NASU</p> <p>Psalm 93:2 Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting. NASU</p> <p>Isaiah 40:28-29 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. 29 He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power. NASU</p>	<p><i>Unchanging, true, dependable...</i></p>



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<p><b>"O LORD"</b></p> <p>Proverbs 18:10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous runs into it and is safe. NASU</p> <p>Psalms 103:19 The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over all.</p> <p>Psalms 47:2-3 For the LORD Most High is to be feared, A great King over all the earth. He subdues peoples under us And nations under our feet. NASU</p> <p>Revelation 15:4 "Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED." NASU</p>	
<p><b>"My God"</b></p> <p>Revelation 4:11 "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created." NASU</p> <p>Jeremiah 32:27 "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?" NASU</p> <p>Jeremiah 32:17 "Ah Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You, NAS</p>	
<p><b>"My Holy One"</b></p> <p>1 Sam 2:2 "There is no one holy like the LORD, Indeed, there is no one besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God. NASU</p> <p>Isa 43:15-16 "I am the LORD, your Holy One, The Creator of Israel, your King." 16 Thus says the LORD, Who makes a way through the sea And a path through the mighty waters, NASU</p> <p>Revelation 15:4 "Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED." NASU</p>	
<p><b>"O Rock"</b></p> <p>Deuteronomy 32:4 "The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He. NASU</p> <p>Psalms 31:2-3 Incline Your ear to me, rescue me quickly; Be to me a rock of strength, A stronghold to save me. 3 For You are my rock and my fortress; For Your name's sake You will lead me and guide me. NASU</p> <p>2 Samuel 22:2-4 He said, "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; 3 My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge; My savior, You save me from violence. 4 "I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, And I am saved from my enemies. NASU</p> <p>Psalms 62:6-7 He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be shaken. 7 On God my salvation and my glory rest; The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God. NASU</p>	

33. Underline the promises Habakkuk could trust in even though the people were going to be taken captive.

- (To Abram) Genesis 17:7-8 "I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. 8 "I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God." NASU
- Leviticus 26:44 "Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them, nor will I so abhor them as to destroy them, breaking My covenant with them; for I am the LORD their God." NASU
- Jeremiah 31:35-37 This is what the LORD says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar--the LORD Almighty is his name: 36 "Only if these decrees vanish from my sight," declares the LORD, "will the descendants of Israel ever cease to be a nation before me." 37 This is what the LORD says: "Only if the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth below be searched out will I reject all the descendants of Israel because of all they have done," declares the LORD. NIV
- 2 Kings 8:19 Yet the LORD would not destroy Judah, for the sake of his servant David, as He promised him to give a lamp to him and his sons forever. NKJV
- Deuteronomy 4:27-31 "The LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD drives you. 28 "There you will serve gods, the work of man's hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. 29 "But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul. 30 "When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you, in the latter days you will return to the LORD your God and listen to His voice. 31 "For the LORD your God is a compassionate God; He will not fail you nor destroy you nor forget the covenant with your fathers which He swore to them. NASU

34. What kind of a life did God want the people to have while they were in captivity? Jeremiah 29:4-7,10-14

35. What ultimate promise and hope did God give to the nation of Israel? Jeremiah 23:3-6

***Digging Deeper***

What does Hebrews 12:5-11 say about God's discipline? (See also Proverbs 3:12)

***Applying the Word:*** Discuss the intricate and deep facets of God's judgment and forgiveness from today's lesson.

**Day 4****Read Habakkuk 1:13-17****Habakkuk's questions**

36. What troubled Habakkuk about God's use of the Babylonians to judge Israel? 1:13 (Compare Psalm 5:4-6)

- Mark the word "*why*" in 1:13.

**FYI:** "Habakkuk didn't bury the frustration he felt toward God. He expressed his anguish...He didn't conceal his feelings or questions under a cloak of spirituality. ...Rather, he brought it all out in the open and asked his God some hard questions. Then, in faith, he embraced what he knew about his covenant-keeping God and about His Word." - Kay Arthur (36)

37. Read through the following verses:

- 2 Chronicles 36:15-16 "The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent word to them again and again by His messengers, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place; but they continually mocked the messengers of God, despised His words and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, until there was no remedy." NASU
- Jeremiah 31:20 "Is Ephraim [*Israel*] My dear son? Is he a delightful child? Indeed, as often as I have spoken against him, I certainly still remember him; Therefore My heart yearns for him; I will surely have mercy on him," declares the LORD. NASU
- Matthew 23:37 "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. NASU
- Luke 19:41-44 When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, "If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. 43 "For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, 44 and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation." NASU
- What do these verses indicate about God's heart for the nation of Israel?
- How did God try to turn the people's hearts back to Him?
- How did the people respond?
- How long did God wait to bring judgment? (See esp. 2 Chronicles 36:16b)

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38. Since God is *good* (Mark 10:18) and God is *love* (1 John 4:8) and He *cannot be tempted by evil* (James 1:13) and there is *no darkness at all in Him* (1 John 1:5) and He has *no fellowship with iniquity* (Psalm 94:20) and He *does not change* from that...ever! (James 1:17), why do you think He took responsibility for the Babylonian invasion? 1:6,12b

39. To what did Habakkuk compare the nation of Israel in 1:14? What does this imply about their condition?

- What was the nature of the enemy's attacks? How well could the nation stand up to them? 1:15

**FYI:** "The comparison to 'fish' implies a condition that is subhuman and vulnerable... The 'sea creatures' (*remes*, 'creeping things') in the second line are seen as equally helpless, lacking the organization or leadership normally expected in human society."  
- The Expositor's Bible Commentary

"**Drag them away with their net** - This is a vivid picture of the conquered victims being treated like fish caught in a net. Mesopotamian rock reliefs often portray prisoners being hauled off to captivity in nets."  
- David Guzik

40. To what did the Chaldeans give credit for their victory? 1:16 (Cf. 1:11b) What was their "net" (hint: their way of subduing other nations)?

- How successful were they? 1:16b

41. What was Habakkuk's next concern? 1:17 How would you state this in your own words?

**Digging Deeper**  
Compare David's questions in Psalm 77:7-9.

- What picture was Habakkuk giving in these verses of the battle between good and evil in this world? What was he saying about the need for God's protection? About the outcome when God's protection/guidance is absent or removed?

**Applying the Word:** *God can use armies to deal with suffering and injustice, but He also uses His church. Talk about the ways God's compassion and love offset evil and injustice through His people worldwide...and right here.*