

Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:2-4; 3:17-19

1 The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

The Prophet's Complaint

² O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?

Or cry to you 'Violence!'
and you will not save?

³ Why do you make me see wrongdoing
and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.

⁴ So the law becomes slack
and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous—
therefore judgement comes forth perverted.

⁵ Look at the nations, and see!
Be astonished! Be astounded!
For a work is being done in your days
that you would not believe if you were told.

⁶ For I am rousing the Chaldeans,
that fierce and impetuous nation,
who march through the breadth of the earth
to seize dwellings not their own.

⁷ Dread and fearsome are they;
their justice and dignity proceed from themselves.

² Then the LORD answered me and said:
Write the vision;
 make it plain on tablets,
 so that a runner may read it.
³ For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
 it speaks of the end, and does not lie.
If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
 it will surely come, it will not delay.
⁴ Look at the proud!
 Their spirit is not right in them,
 but the righteous live by their faith.

Trust and Joy in the Midst of Trouble

¹⁷ Though the fig tree does not blossom,
 and no fruit is on the vines;
though the produce of the olive fails
 and the fields yield no food;
though the flock is cut off from the fold
 and there is no herd in the stalls,
¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD;
 I will exult in the God of my salvation.
¹⁹ GOD, the Lord, is my strength;
 he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
 and makes me tread upon the heights.