

Notes

Habakkuk message (10/20/2014) – Notes on main points and verses:

Background of book / application to us. God's judgment upon a sinful people and salvation of some.

Hab. 1:1-6. Habakkuk is surrounded by violence and iniquity in Judah. He questions God as to why He allows the evils to go on without judgment. God answers that He will initiate a shocking judgment through the Babylonians.

1:12 – Judgment to also issue in correction for God's people.

2:1-4 – The Lord will answer the prophet's inquiry on Babylon: why would God use a more evil people to judge His own people, the Jews? Vs. 4-20 show the judgment woes for Babylon.

"Vision" = something of significant revelation from God. Send out the messengers of the word of this vision. It is yet for an appointed time (near and far fulfillments).

(Hab 2:3) For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.

This verse points particularly to the end of the age. It "pants" (Hebrew) toward the end. Wait for it, even while it tarries, for it will come. Heb. 10:37-38. The Lord will come and will bring judgment upon the wicked and the deliverance of those who live by faith. Verse 4 is a summary of this.

We are now on the edge of severe judgment and the coming of the Lord. It is the season of the Lord's return. Severe judgment is coming soon upon the USA and likely upon the whole earth. Biblical principles confirming this:

- God deals with nations according to how they respond to His Word. Jer. 18:1-10
- God dealt with Israel in successive, increasing measures of judgment over time if they did not obey His word. We should expect His dealings with wayward nations to follow a similar pattern. Lev. 26:14-35. History of USA – embracing then rejecting God's word. Judgment of 9/11 and 2008. The Harbinger and the Shemitah books by Jonathan Cahn. No response in repentance by the populace or most of Christianity. Christians living like unbelievers. Now in a new Shemitah year. USA slated for more severe judgment.
- Calamities from God to chastise His wayward people are foretold by His spokesmen. Amos 3:1-8. J. Cahn, David Wilkerson, Lance Lambert, Mark Biltz and maybe others. God uses judgments not only to punish unbelievers, but to chastise believers. Only a minority are recognizing the chastisements upon the USA with repentance (Lev. 26:40-42).
- The truth of a matter is confirmed by the testimony of two or three witnesses. Matt. 18:17; Jn. 8:17-18; 2 Cor. 13:1. This principle is especially noted in the OT for capital punishment (Num. 35:30; Deut. 17:6). Testimony of coming judgment: J. Cahn, Lance Lambert, Billy Graham and others. Testimony of many of the soon coming of the Lord: Anne Graham Lotz, Stephen Kuang, Lance Lambert and many Bible prophecy teachers.
- "Signs of the Times" Matt. 16:1-3. Disciples are responsible to discern the times.
 - ◇ Israel reborn 1948 – the fig tree sign. Matt. 24:32-34. Several OT prophecies fulfilled.

Notes

- ◇ Apostasy in the Christian church. 2 Thess. 2:3 (Much of the church not tuned into prophecy.)
- ◇ Preparations for a rebuilt temple (Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:4)
- ◇ Middle East changes. The rise of radical Islam and the drive for a revived Islamic caliphate. Set up for Dan. 11:40ff wars.
- ◇ Dramatic increase in lawlessness, ungodliness, immorality, homosexuality, demonic activity (2 Thess. 2:7; 2 Tim. 3:1-5). The mass murders, the child killers, the bizarre crimes – have increased dramatically. Increase in demonic and occult themes in movies, TV and books.
- ◇ Blood moon tetrad. Portends major happenings in Israel. Judgment upon the nations?
- ◇ Wars and rumors of wars. More coming. War cycles ramp up 2014- 2020.
- ◇ Ebola?

Hab. 3:1-2. A prayer in response to the visions of coming judgment. Awesome fear of God's powerful judgments.

As God intervened in former times to judge Israel's enemies and deliver her, so Habakkuk prays for this work to be done again by God.

"Your work" probably means God's work of purifying and saving a people for Himself, and in context using the judgment upon the land for this work. The "midst of the years" may refer to the coming times forecast by God as a time of chastening judgment upon Judah by Babylon (chp. 1). It is certainly a prayer for God's people, the Jews, perhaps with a prophetic application for the future regarding the final "time of Jacob's trouble."

"In wrath remember mercy." In God's judgments, especially upon Israel, Habakkuk implores God to remember His mercy towards His people. This mercy will be shown to individuals within the land who respond to God in humility. Note **Zeph. 2:1-3 as a parallel thought**. Zephaniah shows us how to prepare beforehand.

3:3-15 recount God's deliverances in the past in poetic language, but also the text shows that the future – the time of the end – is also referenced. Note v. 6, 12, 13.

3:16 – The awesome judgments of God bring trembling, but the promise ahead of time that God's going forth is ultimately for salvation (3:13) brings an anticipation of rest in the coming day of trouble.

3:17-19 – The coming invasion will devastate the land and the economy of Israel. Yet, Habakkuk anticipates the joy and the strength and the walk (of resurrection) he will personally experience with God in the midst of it. His final outlook is positive. This is a time to experience the Lord abundantly!