

*Minor Prophets...*

# THE MINOR PROPHETS

The Book of Habakkuk

Hab. 1:5-11

*...Major Message*

## **Minor Prophets...**

Hab. 1:5 Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvellously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you.

6 For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwellingplaces that are not theirs.

7 They are terrible and dreadful: their judgment and their dignity shall proceed of themselves.

8 Their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves: and their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from far; they shall fly as the eagle that hasteth to eat.

9 They shall come all for violence: their faces shall sup up as the east wind, and they shall gather the captivity as the sand.

10 And they shall scoff at the kings, and the princes shall be a scorn unto them: they shall deride every strong hold; for they shall heap dust, and take it.

11 Then shall his mind change, and he shall pass over, and offend, imputing this his power unto his god.

**...Major Message**

## **Minor Prophets...**

### I. THE PROPHET IS TROUBLED (Wondering and Worrying) – 1:1-17

#### A. The Crimes of Judah, 1:1-4

1. A Personal Sorrow, 1:1-2a, 1 Kgs. 18:21, Ex. 16:28, Num. 14:11, 14:27, Josh. 18:3, Psa. 94:3, Prov. 1:22, 6:9 Isa. 6:11, Jer. 4:14, Rev. 6:10

#### 2. A Permissive Society, 1:4

- a. The Law's Power Was Curbed, 1:4a – "Hab. 1:4  
Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth..." Psa. 119:126, Jer. 5:26-29
- b. The Lord's People Were Careless, 1:4b – "...for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth." Psa. 17:8-9

**...Major Message**



## **Minor Prophets...**

- *History is under God's control.*
- *History follows a divine plan.*
- *History follows a divine timetable.*
- *History is bound up with the divine kingdom.*

*~D. Martyn-Lloyd Jones*

***...Major Message***

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### B. The Coming of Judgment, 1:5-17

#### 1. Its Immense Extent, 1:5

Hab. 1:5 Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvellously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you.

Acts 13:40 Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets;

41 Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you.

#### 2. Its Impending Execution, 1:6-11

**...Major Message**

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Hab. 1:6 For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwellingplaces that are not theirs.

7 They are terrible and dreadful: their judgment and their dignity shall proceed of themselves.

8 Their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves: and their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from far; they shall fly as the eagle that hasteth to eat.

9 They shall come all for violence: their faces shall sup up as the east wind, and they shall gather the captivity as the sand.

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### a. The Success of the Chaldeans, 1:6-10

#### i. Their Coming, 1:6

Hab. 1:6 For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwellingplaces that are not theirs.

#### ii. Their Character, 1:7-8

Hab. 1:7 They are terrible and dreadful: their judgment and their dignity shall proceed of themselves.

8 Their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves: and their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from far; they shall fly as the eagle that hasteth to eat.

***...Major Message***

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(1) Their Personal Traits, 1:7

Hab. 1:7 They are terrible and dreadful: their judgment and their dignity shall proceed of themselves.

Deut. 28:47 **Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all *things*;**

48 **Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee**, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all *things*: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.

49 **The LORD shall bring a nation against thee** from far, from the end of the earth, *as swift* as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;

50 **A nation of fierce countenance**, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young: **...Major Message**



## ***Minor Prophets...***

Ezek. 7:24 Wherefore I will bring the worst of the heathen, and they shall possess their houses: I will also make the pomp of the strong to cease; and their holy places shall be defiled.

25 Destruction cometh; and they shall seek peace, and there shall be none.

26 Mischief shall come upon mischief, and rumour shall be upon rumour; then shall they seek a vision of the prophet; but the law shall perish from the priest, and counsel from the ancients.

27 The king shall mourn, and the prince shall be clothed with desolation, and the hands of the people of the land shall be troubled: I will do unto them after their way, and according to their deserts will I judge them; and they shall know that I am the LORD.

***...Major Message***

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The Jews of Habakkuk's day did not believe that God would allow the Gentiles to overrun their nation (cf. Jer. 5:12; 6:14; 7:1-34; 8:11; Lam. 4:12; Amos 6). Yet their law and their prophets warned them that this could happen (cf. Deut. 28:49-50; 1 Kings 11:14, 23; Jer. 4; 5:14-17; 6:22-30; Amos 6:14).

### (2) Their Powerful Troops, 1:8

Hab. 1:8 Their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves: and their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from far; they shall fly as the eagle that hasteth to eat.

### iii. Their Cruelty, 1:9

Hab. 1:9 They shall come all **for violence**: their faces shall sup up as the east wind, and they shall gather the captivity as the sand.

**...Major Message**



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Jer. 18:15 Because **my people hath forgotten me**, they have burned incense to vanity, and they have caused them to stumble in their ways from the ancient paths, to walk in paths, in a way not cast up;

16 To make their land desolate, and a perpetual hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished, and wag his head.

17 **I will scatter them as with an east wind** before the enemy; **I will shew them the back, and not the face, in the day of their calamity.**

### iv. Their Conquests, 1:10

Hab. 1:10 And they shall scoff at the kings, and the princes shall be a scorn unto them: they shall deride every strong hold; for they shall heap dust, and take it. **...Major Message**



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b. The Sin of the Chaldeans, 1:11

Hab. 1:11 Then shall his mind change, and he shall pass over, and offend, imputing this his power unto his god.

Psa. 115:3 But **our God** is in the heavens: **he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.**

4 **Their idols** are silver and gold, the work of men's hands.

5 They have mouths, but **they speak not**: eyes have they, but **they see not**:

6 They have ears, but **they hear not**: noses have they, but **they smell not**:

7 They have hands, but **they handle not**: feet have they, but **they walk not**: neither speak they through their throat.

8 **They that make them are like unto them**; so is every one that trusteth in them.

**...Major Message**

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Isa. 44:9 They that make a graven image are **all of them vanity**; and their delectable things shall not profit; and **they are their own witnesses**; they see not, nor know; that they may be ashamed.

16 **He burneth part thereof in the fire**; with part thereof he eateth flesh; he roasteth roast, and is satisfied: yea, he warmeth himself, and saith, Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire:

17 And **the residue thereof he maketh a god**, even **his graven image: he falleth down unto it**, and **worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it**, and saith, Deliver me; for thou art my god.

18 They have not known nor understood: for **he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand.**

1 Cor. 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, **because they are spiritually discerned.**

***...Major Message***

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## **Conclusion**

- God answered prayer, but in an unexpected way – vs. 5-11
- God wants us to take a look at the “big picture” – v. 5
- God allows, and uses, the heathen for His purposes – vs. 6-10
- The heathen are cruel and proud – v. 7
- The heathen are powerful – v.8
- The heathen are ruthless – v. 9
- The heathen will mistake God’s allowances and attribute them to the wrong source.

***...Major Message***



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Psa. 37:7 **Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself** because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: **fret not thyself** in any wise to do evil.

1 Cor. 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

***...Major Message***