### Habakkuk

## Chapter 3

1The prayer of Prophet HabakKuk, in a song:  
  
 2‘O Lord,  
  
 ‘I heard Your report and I was afraid.  
  
 ‘O Jehovah,  
  
 ‘I thought of your works and I trembled.  
  
 ‘You stand between the two cherubs,  
 And in coming years, all will know You…  
 Yes, when that time arrives, You’ll be seen.  
  
 ‘And when disturbance comes into my life,  
 You’ll think of [me] and show mercy.  
 3For, God will come out of For, God will come out of <span class="placename">TeManFor, God will come out of <span class="placename">TeMan</span>…  
 Yes, from the shadow of Yes, from the shadow of <span class="placename">Mount Paran Yes, from the shadow of <span class="placename">Mount Paran</span>,  
 The Most Holy one will arrive.’  
  
PAUSE  
  
 ‘His virtues cover the skies  
 And His praises fill the [whole] earth…  
 4Like all kinds of light is His brightness.  
  
 ‘In His hands, He carries a trumpet;  
 And by His might, He sends us His love.  
  
 5‘So, from His face, a word will go forth,  
 Which will travel from there to the plains;  
 6And where His feet stand, the [whole] earth will shake.  
  
 ‘When He looks upon them, the nations dissolve…  
 By [His] might, the mountains will break  
 And the hills of the ages will melt.  
  
 7‘On the tents of ‘On the tents of <span class="placename">Ethiopian‘On the tents of <span class="placename">Ethiopian</span> peoples,  
 I saw distress about to arrive,  
 And the tents of And the tents of <span class="placename">Media And the tents of <span class="placename">Media</span> were also disturbed.  
  
 8‘Were You provoked by their rivers, O Lord…  
 Did their rivers make You so angry  
 That against their sea, You took action?  
  
 ‘O you who’re arriving on horses;  
 As you ride, are you bringing salvation?  
 9No, Jehovah has told you to stretch out…  
 Against their tents, you must stretch tight your bows!’  
  
PAUSE  
  
 ‘You’ll divide up their lands by their rivers,  
 10And when they see you, they’ll start having birth pangs;  
 For they’ll know that the rivers will be their new borders.  
  
 ‘Then the abyss will shout to the heights  
 When it sees that you’re arriving.  
 11For the sun won’t rise in the sky,  
 And the moon will fail and stand still.  
 But, by the flash of your arrows  
 And sparks from your weapons, they’ll move.  
  
 12‘When [God] threatens, He’ll leave just few in their lands;  
 For in His rage, He wipes nations away.  
 13But to His people, He’s bringing salvation,  
 And He will save His anointed.  
  
 ‘But to the heads of the lawless, He will send death…  
 First, He’ll put chains on their necks,  
 Which will shake and astonish the mighty,  
 And then He will chop off their heads!’  
  
PAUSE  
  
 14‘Yes, He’ll split the heads of the mighty,  
 After He makes them all shiver.  
 So then they’ll put down their reins  
 And look for places to hide…  
 Where they’ll be fed like the poor.  
  
 15‘For He’ll lead their horses into the sea,  
 And there they’ll muddy its waters…  
 Which will bring fear to all, when they see it.  
  
 16‘On my lips, there was the sound of a prayer…  
 Trembling entered my backside and bones…  
 Yes, all of my ways were disturbed.  
 But I’ll find rest in that day of distress…  
 When I leave the people to whom I was sent.  
  
 17‘For their fig trees won’t bear fruit anymore,  
 And there’ll be no grapes on their vines.  
 Their olives will also be gone,  
 And there’ll be no crops in their fields.  
  
 ‘At that time, there’ll be no more sheep,  
 And there’ll be no oxen left in their barns.  
  
 18‘But I’ll shout in joy to Jehovah…  
 I’ll rejoice over my Savior, God!  
 19For Jehovah God is my strength,  
 And He’s provided straight paths for my feet…  
 Upon a high place, He’s set me,  
 And by His song, I’ll win!’

# Zephaniah

Zephaniah is a record of the prophecy given to the Prophet Zephaniah.  
  
It’s message is a warning to JeruSalem, the surrounding countries, and the Assyrians. It was probably written around 640 BCE.  
  
  
Most of this book is poetry  
  
Something that only a Bible translator would notice is when words are in the form of Hebrew poetry. There’s a definite cadence that can be seen in the original language. Therefore, because this is the chosen style of God, we’ve tried to recreate it as it was originally intended: in poetic verse.  
  
  
Why use poetry?  
  
Poetry must conform to a certain rhythm and style. These act as memory aids, helping you to recall the words, making it easier for messages to be spread via the most common communication method of the time: song.  
  
  
Who was talking?  
  
When translating the words of the Prophets, you can’t help but notice the constant changing personal pronouns (I, you, he, they, etc.) used in the text. It makes it very confusing to figure out exactly who’s talking.  
  
However, we now realize one reason for the confusion that’s usually overlooked: God didn’t speak to the Prophets personally. Rather, He sent His messages through a mediator, either referred to as a messenger (an angel), or sometimes as ‘The Word’ (which some interpret to mean Jesus).  
  
So there are actually three voices speaking:  
  
 1. That of the Prophet, who sometimes quotes himself,  
  
 2. That of the angelic messenger who’s bringing the message from God,  
  
 3. The words of God Himself (which we put in italics).  
  
  
How can we tell the difference? From the context, the pronouns, and the tenses:  
  
  
 1. When the Prophet speaks, he’s either clearly reporting what he said or did, or is simply saying what was happening.  
  
 2. When the angelic messenger speaks, he talks about God in the third person.  
  
 3 When God is speaking, all references to God are naturally spoken in the first person.  
  
  
Did we get it all right? Probably not, but it has been an honest attempt at doing so. If you think you’ve spotted a place where our choice is incorrect, please let us know and we’ll reconsider it.