

HABAKKUK

1 THE burden which Habakkuk the prophet did see. / [2] How long, O LORD, shall I cry, / And Thou wilt not hear? / I cry out unto Thee of violence, / And Thou wilt not save. / [3] Why dost Thou show me iniquity, / And beholdest mischief? / And why are spoiling and violence before me? / So that there is strife, and contention ariseth. / [4] Therefore the law is slacked, / And right doth never go forth; / For the wicked doth beset the righteous; / Therefore right goeth forth perverted. / [5] Look ye among the nations, and behold, / And wonder marvellously; / For, behold, a work shall be wrought in your days, / Which ye will not believe though it be told you. / [6] For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, / That bitter and impetuous nation, / That march through the breadth of the earth, / To possess dwelling-places that are not theirs. / [7] They are terrible and dreadful; / Their law and their majesty proceed from themselves. / [8] Their horses also are swifter than leopards, / And are more fierce than the wolves of the desert; / And their horsemen spread themselves; / Yea, their horsemen come from far, / They fly as a vulture that hasteth to devour. / [9] They come all of them for violence; / Their faces are set eagerly as the east wind; / And they gather captives as the sand. / [10] And they scoff at kings, / And princes are a derision unto them; / They deride every stronghold, / For they heap up earth, and take it. / [11] Then their spirit doth pass over and transgress, / And they become guilty: / Even they who impute their might unto their god. / [12] Art not Thou from everlasting, / O LORD my God, my Holy One? / We shall not die. / O LORD, Thou hast ordained them for judgment, / And Thou, O Rock, hast established them for correction. / [13] Thou that art of eyes too pure to behold evil, / And that canst not look on mischief, / Wherefore lookest Thou, when they deal treacherously, / And holdest Thy peace, when the wicked swalloweth up / The man that is more righteous than he; / [14] And makest men as the fishes of the sea, / As the creeping things, that have no ruler over them? / [15] They take up all of them with the angle, / They catch them in their net, / And gather them in their drag; / Therefore they rejoice and exult. / [16] Therefore they sacrifice unto their net, / And offer unto

their drag; / Because by them their portion is fat, / And their food plenteous. / [17] Shall they therefore empty their net, / And not spare to slay the nations continually?

2 I will stand upon my watch, / And set me upon the tower, / And will look out to see what He will speak by me, / And what I shall answer when I am reproved. / [2] And the LORD answered me, and said: / 'Write the vision, / And make it plain upon tables, / That a man may read it swiftly. / [3] For the vision is yet for the appointed time, / And it declareth of the end, and doth not lie; / Though it tarry, wait for it; / Because it will surely come, it will not delay.' / [4] Behold, his soul is puffed up, it is not upright in him; / But the righteous shall live by his faith. / [5] Yea, moreover, wine is a treacherous dealer; / The haughty man abideth not; / He who enlargeth his desire as the nether-world, / And is as death, and cannot be satisfied, / But gathereth unto him all nations, / And heapeth unto him all peoples. / [6] Shall not all these take up a parable against him, / And a taunting riddle against him, / And say: 'Woe to him that increaseth that which is not his! / How long? and that ladeth himself with many pledges!' / [7] Shall they not rise up suddenly that shall exact interest of thee, / And awake that shall violently shake thee, / And thou shalt be for booties unto them? / [8] Because thou hast spoiled many nations, / All the remnant of the peoples shall spoil thee; / Because of men's blood, and for the violence done to the land, / To the city and to all that dwell therein.

[9] Woe to him that gaineth evil gains for his house, / That he may set his nest on high, / That he may be delivered from the power of evil! / [10] Thou hast devised shame to thy house, / By cutting off many peoples, / And hast forfeited thy life. / [11] For the stone shall cry out of the wall, / And the beam out of the timber shall answer it.

[12] Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, / And establisheth a city by iniquity! / [13] Behold, is it not of the LORD of hosts / That the peoples labour for the fire, / And the nations weary themselves for vanity? / [14] For the earth shall be filled / With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, / As the waters cover the sea. /

[15] Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, / That putteth thy venom thereto, and makest him drunken also, / That thou mayest look on their nakedness! / [16] Thou art filled with shame instead of glory, / Drink thou also, and be uncovered; / The cup of the LORD's right hand shall be turned unto thee, / And filthiness shall be upon thy glory. / [17] For the violence done to Lebanon shall cover thee, / And the destruction of the beasts, which made them afraid; / Because of men's blood, and for the violence done to the land, / To the city and to all that dwell therein. / [18] What profiteth the graven image, / That the maker thereof hath graven it, / Even the molten image, and the teacher of lies; / That the maker of his work trusteth therein, / To make dumb idols? / [19] Woe unto him that saith to the wood: 'Awake', / To the dumb stone: 'Arise!' / Can this teach? / Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, / And there is no breath at all in the midst of it. / [20] But the LORD is in His holy temple; / Let all the earth keep silence before Him.

3 A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet. Upon Shigionoth. / [2] O LORD, I have heard the report of Thee, and am afraid; / O LORD, revive Thy work in the midst of the years, / In the midst of the years make it known; / In wrath remember compassion. / [3] God cometh from Teman, / And the Holy One from mount Paran. Selah / His glory covereth the heavens, / And the earth is full of His praise. / [4] And a brightness appeareth as the light; / Rays hath He at His side; / And there is the hiding of His power. / [5] Before Him goeth the pestilence, / And fiery bolts go forth at His feet. / [6] He standeth, and shaketh the earth, / He beholdeth, and maketh the nations to tremble; / And the everlasting mountains are dashed in pieces, / The ancient hills do bow; / His goings are as of old. / [7] I see the tents of Cushan in affliction; / The curtains of the land of Midian do tremble. / [8] Is it, O LORD, that against the rivers, / Is it that Thine anger is kindled against the rivers, / Or Thy wrath against the sea? / That thou dost ride upon Thy horses, / Upon Thy chariots of victory? / [9] Thy bow is made quite bare; / Sworn are the rods of the word. Selah / Thou dost cleave the earth with rivers. / [10] The mountains have seen Thee, and they tremble; / The tempest of waters floweth over; / The deep uttereth its voice, / And lifteth up its hands on high. / [11] The sun and moon stand still in their habitation; / At the light of Thine arrows as they go, / At the shining of Thy glittering

spear. / [12] Thou marchest through the earth
in indignation, / Thou threshest the nations
in anger. / [13] Thou art come forth for the
deliverance of Thy people, / For the deliverance
of Thine anointed; / Thou woundest the head
out of the house of the wicked, / Uncovering the
foundation even unto the neck. Selah

[14] Thou hast stricken through with his
own rods the head of his rulers, / That come as
a whirlwind to scatter me; / Whose rejoicing is
as to devour the poor secretly. / [15] Thou hast
trodden the sea with Thy horses, / The foaming
of mighty waters. / [16] When I heard, mine
inward parts trembled, / My lips quivered at the
voice; / Rottenness entereth into my bones, / And
I tremble where I stand; / That I should wait for
the day of trouble, / When he cometh up against
the people that he invadeth. / [17] For though the
fig-tree shall not blossom, / Neither shall fruit be
in the vines; / The labour of the olive shall fail, /
And the fields shall yield no food; / The flock
shall be cut off from the fold, / And there shall
be 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, /
And He maketh my feet like hinds' feet, / And
He maketh me to walk upon my high places. /
For the Leader. With my string-music.