



This issue contains some things difficult to understand, just like this war on terror., but addresses some of it's Costs! **Be Encouraged!**

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THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY THEIR TRIUMPHANT FAITH IN THE SAVIOR

Encouragement for the Christian Men and Women in Uniform in Iraq and Afghanistan. For those who are troubled by the violence and terror of the terrorists and the Iraqis. You walk up-stream against the violent, often suffering their cruel treatment and inhumanity. It's enough to cause you to wonder, is the god of terror stronger than The Everlasting Holy God and His Christ? **No! There is in the Holy Nature of Creator God, a disgust to terrorist practices, for they are contrary to His Holy Law.** Though they seem to prosper in it, these terrorists are ordained for Correction and Judgment. God is neither the Author or Patron of Sin, nor does He approve it!

I will share with You a Similar time in History, of a Nation, similar to the United States of America in her ways, and The Everlasting God of Justice and Righteousness.

There was a Prophet named **Habakkuk** who wrote **3 Chapters in the Bible**, concerning the Nation Judah (who's king was **Jehoiakim 609-597BC**), **and the terror that would rise out of Chaldea (and Babylon's king Nebuchadnezzar 605 BC)**. I advise You to read the 3 Chapter book of Habakkuk (TMSG) (Spoken around 607 B.C.)

First, I Encourage You with these words. The Name **Habakkuk** is from a Hebrew name **habaqquq** derived from a verb **'habaq'** meaning **"Embrace"**. Signifying **"one who Embraces, or Clings"** and at the end of this Prophet's writings it becomes apparent and appropriate **because he chooses to Cling Firmly To The Everlasting Living God**, (3:16-19) regardless of what happens to his Nation. **"Salvation" is mentioned 3 times in Ch 3.**

The Nation **Judah** was slowly declining for many years. Politics and divided parties, with conflicting ideas of what the Country should be and do. The

upper crust of the immoral wealthy climbing upon the backs of the working-class poor. Hardship placed on the powerless by those who had gained power by amassing wealth through injustice. So much like our America! **1:4 Law and order fall to pieces. Justice is a joke. The wicked have the righteous hamstrung and stand justice on its head**

Then **the Just and Holy God** used a Violent Nation (Babylon) to take the divided Nation (Judah) 'captive' so He could finally have their attention. **5"Look around at the godless nations. Look long and hard. Brace yourself for a shock. Something's about to take place and you're going to find it hard to believe. 6I'm about to raise up Babylonians to punish you, Babylonians, fierce and ferocious— yes in their first Invasion they took 10,000 leaders of Judah, the Wealthy Nobles, who Oppressed and Extorted from their own poor Countrymen, were the first to be carried away to Babylon, Captive, just like the terrorists, in pride, captivate the American mind and money (1/2 Trillion), today.**

9They're out to kill. Death is on their minds. They collect victims like squirrels gathering nuts. 10They mock kings, poke fun at generals, Spit on forts, and leave them in the dust.

11They'll all be blown away by the wind. Brazen in sin, they call strength their god." Why Is **God Silent Now?**

12"God, you're from Eternity, aren't you? Holy God, ..God, you chose Babylonians for your judgment work? Rock-Solid God, you gave them the job of discipline? 13But you can't be serious! You can't condone evil! So why don't you do something about this? Why are you silent now? This outrage! Evil men swallow up the righteous and you stand around and watch! Behold the Proud, his Soul is not upright in him, but the Just shall live by his (or her) Faith. Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, my Savior. I will Joy in the God of my Salvation!

I'LL CLIMB TO THE LOOKOUT TOWER AND PRAY

God shows Habakkuk two different types of men: 4“Look at that man, bloated by self-importance— full of himself but **soul-empty**.

But the (Righteous) person in right standing before God through loyal and steady believing is fully alive, really alive.

The Righteous in Christ are often hated, even as Cain hated Righteous Able, his own brother, and slew him.

MONEY DECEIVES THE ARROGANT

5“Note well: Money deceives.

The arrogant rich don't last.

They are more hungry for wealth

than the grave is for cadavers.

Like death, they always want more,

but the 'more' they get is dead bodies.

They are cemeteries filled with dead nations,

graveyards filled with corpses.

6“Don't give people like this a second thought.

Soon the whole world will be taunting them:

“**Who do you think you are— getting rich by stealing and extortion?**

THEY CAUSE RUIN TO THEIR OWN HOUSE \$

9“Who do you think you are— recklessly grabbing and looting,

Living it up, acting like king of the mountain,

acting above it all, above trials and troubles?

10**You've engineered the ruin of your own house.**

In ruining others you've ruined yourself.

You've undermined your foundations, rotted out your own soul.

11**The bricks of your house will speak up and accuse you.**

The woodwork will step forward



Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace.

How long do you think

you can get away with this?'

7Indeed, how long before your victims wake up,

stand up and make *you* the victim?

8**You've plundered nation after nation.**

Now you'll get a taste of your own medicine.

All the survivors are out to plunder you, a payback for all your murders and massacres.

with evidence.

12“Who do you think you are—

building a town by murder, a city with crime?

13Don't you know that **God-of-the-Angel-Armies**

makes sure nothing comes of that but ashes,

Makes sure the harder you work

at that kind of thing, the less you are?

The Insatiable are never Satisfied because there is Vanity in the Love of Money, the root of all kinds of evil.

18 “What’s the use of a carved god so skillfully carved by its sculptor?



What good is a fancy cast god when all it tells is lies?

What sense does it make to be a **pious god-maker**

who makes gods that can’t even talk? ¹⁹Who do you think you are—saying to a stick of wood, ‘Wake up,’ Or to a dumb stone, ‘Get up’?

Can they teach you anything about anything?

There’s nothing to them but surface.

There’s nothing on the inside. It’s time to turn back to The Holy God and His Christ!

20 **“But oh! God is in his holy Temple! Quiet every-one—a holy silence. Listen!”**



IN JUDGMENT, REMEMBER YOUR MERCY

²God, I’ve heard what our ancestors say about You, and I’m stopped in my tracks, down on my knees.

Do among us what **You** did among them. Work among us as **You** worked among them.

And as You bring judgment, as You surely must, remember mercy.

11 Our lives are at constant risk for Jesus’ sake, which makes Jesus’ life all the more evident in us.

RETRACING THE OLD DELIVERENCE ROUTE

³God’s on his way again, retracing the old salvation route, (Egypt to the Promised Land) Coming up from the south (delivering Israel out of Egypt) through Teman (passing through the land of a descendant of Esau), **the Holy One God from Mount Paran** (S.W. of Canaan). **Skies are blazing with his splendor, his praises sounding through the earth,**

⁴His cloud-brightness like dawn, exploding, spreading, forked-lightning shooting from his hand— what **power hidden** in that fist! **⁵Plague marches before him** (then upon Egypt) , pestilence at his heels! **⁶He stops. He shakes Earth. He looks around. Nations tremble.** The age-old mountains fall to pieces; ancient hills collapse like a spent

balloon. **The paths God takes are older than the oldest mountains and hills.** ⁷I saw everyone worried, in a panic: Old wilderness adversaries, Cushan (king of Mesopotamia, the land between the Tigris and the Euphrates. Judges 3:8-10) and Midian (a son of Abraham by Keturah his Egyptian wife), were terrified, hoping he wouldn’t notice them. —(as The God of Israel Marched His 601,730 Warriors past, to Their Jericho).



HE LIVES IN US

We've been surrounded and battered by troubles, but we're not demoralized; we're not sure what to do,⁹ but we know that God knows what to do; we've been spiritually terrorized, but **God** hasn't left our side; we've been thrown down, but we haven't broken.¹⁰ What they did **to Jesus**, they do to us—trial and torture, mockery and murder; **what Jesus did among them**, he does in us—he lives!

Encouragement!

Even the weakness of God, is stronger than men.

18 I'm singing joyful praise to God.

I'm turning cartwheels of joy to my Savior God.

¹⁹Counting on God's Rule to prevail,

I take heart and gain strength.

I run like a deer.

I feel like I'm king of the mountain!

THE GOD OF Heaven's Angel Armies

12 Angry, you stomped through Earth.

Furious, you crushed the godless nations.

¹³ You were out to save your people,
to save your specially chosen people.

You beat the stuffing

out of King Wicked,

Stripped him naked

from head to toe,

¹⁴ Set his severed head on his own spear
and blew away his army.

Scattered they were to the four winds—
and ended up food for the sharks!

¹⁵ You galloped through the Sea on your horses,
racing on the crest of the waves.

¹⁶ When I heard it, my stomach did flips.

I stammered and stuttered.

My bones turned to water.

I staggered and stumbled.

I sit back and wait for Doomsday
to descend on our attackers.



¹⁶ So we're not giving up. How could we!

Understanding God through Christ

³ If our Message is obscure to anyone, it's not because we're holding back in any way. No, it's because these other people are looking or going the wrong way and refuse to give it serious attention. ⁴ All they have

eyes for is the fashionable god of darkness. They think he can give them what they want, and that they won't have to bother believing a Truth they can't see. They're stone-blind to the dayspring brightness

of the Message that shines with Christ, who gives us the best picture of God we'll ever get.

⁵ Remember, our Message is not about ourselves; **we're proclaiming Jesus Christ, the Master.** All we are **is messengers**, errand runners **from Jesus** for you.

It started when God said, "Light up the darkness!" and our lives filled up with light as we saw and understood God in the face of Christ, all bright and beautiful.

2 Cor 4:3-6. All Scripture from TMSG.

