



## [Habakkuk 1:5-17](#)

(5) "Look among the nations, and behold and be amazed and stunned; for / will work a work in your days *which* you will not believe, not even if it is declared to 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 dwelling places that are not their own. (7) They *are* terrible and fearful; their law and their majesty proceed from 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 afar. They shall fly like the vulture hurrying to devour. (9) "All of them shall come for violence; their faces are set sternly as the east wind; and they gather captives like the sand. (10) And they shall scoff at the kings, and the rulers *shall* be a scorn to them. They shall laugh at every stronghold, for they shall heap up dust and capture it. (11) Then he sweeps on *like* wind, and he transgresses and is guilty, *crediting* his power to his god." (12) *Are* You not from everlasting, O LORD my God, my Holy One? We shall not die. O LORD, You have ordained them for judgment; and, my Rock, You have established them for correction. (13) *You are* of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look upon iniquity. Why do You look upon those who deal treacherously? Will You be silent when the wicked swallows the man that is more righteous than he? (14) For You make man like the fish of the sea, like creeping things with no ruler over them. (15) He takes up all of them with the hook; he catches him with his net and gathers him with his dragnet; therefore he rejoices and exults. (16) Therefore he sacrifices to his net and burns incense to his dragnet; because by them his portion *is* fat and his food rich. (17) Shall he therefore empty his net, and shall he slay nations without pity?

*A Faithful Version*

In the first chapter, the prophet Habakkuk was upset with [God](#) because He had made prophecies regarding where Judah's punishment would come from—from the Chaldeans. Habakkuk was irritated by this because he considered the Chaldeans to be worse than the Judeans. His questions run: "God, why are you doing this? Why don't you at least punish us by a righteous nation instead of sending upon us a nation far

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worse than we are?"

That was the way Habakkuk looked at it. God did not look at it that way because He would not have sent the Chaldeans if He did not think it was the right thing for Him to do. Maybe they were worse in an overall sense, but who was more responsible for what they were—the Chaldeans or the Jews? Had the Chaldeans had God's way revealed to them as the Judeans had? Of course not. Maybe the Judeans were not as bad on paper, maybe statistically, but they were more responsible. To whom much is given, much is required ([Luke 12:48](#)).

God would punish them with a hasty nation, He says, a nation violent and rapacious in the way it did things. Habakkuk did not like that one bit, so he appealed to God, and his appeal was hotly delivered.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

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