OET
Open English
Translation

Open English Translation
of the Bible

Havakuk

(Habakkuk)

Introduction

In this document, we can read the prophet Havakuk's (Habakkuk's) discussions about Yahweh God. Havakuk lived in Yehudah (Judah) and this document was likely written by 600 before Yeshua/Jesus (B.C.) Havakuk questions God as to why he punishes his Israeli relatives when they're more godly people than those who attack them. Yahweh answered that he sent armies from Bavel in order to punishment them. At that time, the Babylonians solders were very feared because they were very fierce and had already defeated Ashur and Mitsrayim. Havakuk didn't understand why his master Yahweh would allow that. He also asked God, "Why are you silent while the wicked destroy those who are more godly than them?" (1:13). God answered that he would step in and help in due course: "...godly people live by their faith." (2:4)
The other part of this document is the prophecy about the coming destruction of evil people. Havakuk still fears God's curse on Yehudah, but he trusting that his people would be saved and given of strength to endure the difficulties that they were experiencing. This document finishes with a song praising the Yahweh for his faithfulness.

Main components of this document

The complaints of prophet Havakuk and the answer of Master God *1:1–2:4*
The destruction of evil people *2:5-20*
The praying for Havakuk *3:1-19*

Lighter type marks additions. Underscores join parts of a single source word.
Struck words are untranslated. The ◘ sign marks a verse with no text.
Open English Translation · Translation draft v0.48.94 · https://OET.Bible
Copyright © 2010-2026 https://Freely-Given.org. CC BY-SA 4.0. https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/

Readers' Version

1:1 Here is the message that the prophet Havakuk (Habakkuk) saw:

Havakuk's complaint · Southern kingdom

2 For how long, Yahweh, must I call for help before you listen?
I cry out about the violence, but you haven't rescued me.
3 Why do I have to keep seeing injustice and looking at trouble?
Destruction and violence are all around—there's such strife, and conflicts keep happening.
4 That's why the law is paralysed and why justice doesn't prevail—
because those who do good are surrounded by wicked people, so justice gets perverted.

Yahweh's response · Southern kingdom

5 Watch the other countries and observe them, and be astonished and amazed,
because I'm about to do something in your time
that no one will believe would happen, even if they were told about it.[5]
6 Listen, I'm about to stir up the Babylonians[6]—
that fierce and impetuous empire
that marches around the world to seize cities for themselves.
7 They're dreaded and feared.
They go by their own rules to boost their own pride.
8 Their horses are faster than leopards
and more menacing than the wolves in the evening.
So their horsemen arrive from a great distance, then come charging—
they fly like an eagle that's swift to devour.
9 They all come for violence—
hordes of faces advancing like the wind in the wilderness.
They gather captives like sand.
10 They scoff at kings, and rulers are just a joke to them.
They laugh at fortresses as they pile soil up around them and capture them.
11 Then they sweep past like the wind and move on.
They become guilty of thinking that their own strength is their god.

Havakuk's second complaint · Southern kingdom

12 Yahweh, aren't you the eternal God?
You're my heavenly protector who won't die.
Yahweh, you've appointed them for judgement.
Our rock, you've established them for punishment.
13 Your eyes are too pure to endure seeing evil,
and you're not able to look on wrongdoing with favour.
Why then have you tolerated those who are treacherous?
Why are you silent while the wicked destroy those who are more godly than them?

Literal Version

1:1 The_oracle[1234] which Ḥaʋaqqūq the_prophet he_saw.

2 Until when Oh_**YHWH** have_I_cried_for_help and_not you_ _will_hear I_cry_out to_you violence and_not you_save. **3** To/for_what do_you_make_me_see wickedness and_ _mischief do_you_look_at and_devastation and_violence are_ _to_before_me and_ strife _he/it_was and_contention it_ _arises. **4** Therefore yes/correct/thus/so the_law it_grows_ _numb and_not it_comes_forth to_perpetuity justice if/because the_wicked is_surrounding ~~DOM~~ the_righteous_ _person therefore yes/correct/thus/so justice perverted it_ _comes_forth.

5 See among_nations and_look and_be_astounded be_ _astonished if/because a_deed I_am_about_to_do in_days_of_ _your(pl) which_not you(pl)_will_believe if/because it_will_ _be_recounted. **6** If/because here_I am_about_to_raise_up ~~DOM~~ the_ones_from_Kasdiy the_nation (the)_bitter and_(the)_ _impetuous which_goes to_the_expanses_of the_earth to_ _take_possession_of_dwellings which_not to_him/it. **7** Is_ _terrifying and_awesome it from_him/it justice_of_its and_ _dignity_of_its it_comes_forth. **8** And_they_are_swift more_ _than_leopards horses_of_its and_they_are_keen more_than_ _wolves_of the_evening and_ warhorses_of_its _they_paw_ _the_ground and_horsemen_of_its from_a_distance they_ _come they_fly like_an_eagle which_makes_haste to_devour. **9** Of_it_of_all for_violence it_comes the_totality_of their_ _faces_of_their eastward_is and_it_gathered like_sand captive[s]. **10** And_he (in)_kings it_derides and_rulers are_ _laughter to_him/it it to/from_all/each/any/every fortress it_laughs and_it_heaped_up earth and_it_captured_it. **11** Then it_swept_on a_wind and_it_passed_on and_he_is_ _guilty the_one_who strength_of_his becomes_(into)_god_of_ _his.

12 Am_not are_you from_east Oh_**YHWH** god_of_my my_ _holy_of_one not we_will_die Oh_**YHWH** to_judgement you_ _have_appointed_it and_Oh_rock to_reprove you_have_ _established_it. **13** You_are_too_pure_of eyes for_seeing evil and_to_look to mischief not you_are_able to/for_what do_ _you_look_at those_who_act_treacherously are_you_silent when_ a_wicked_person _swallows_up a_person_righteous more_than_him. **14** And_you_have_made humankind like_ _the_fish(es)_of the_sea like_creeping_thing[s] which_not a_ _ruler in/on/over_him/it. **15** Of_it_of_all with_a_fish_hook he_brings_up he_drags_it_away in_net_of_his and_he_ _gathers_it in_his_fishing_of_net therefore

1 LV 1:1 · Note OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently from BHQ.
2 LV 1:1 · Note OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.
3 LV 1:1 · Note OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.
4 LV 1:1 · Note OSHB note: We read punctuation in L differently from BHS.
5 RV 1:5 · Cross-ref. Acts 13:41.
6 RV 1:6 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 24:2.

Literal Version

yes/correct/thus/so he_rejoices and_he_is_glad. **16** Therefore yes/correct/thus/so he_sacrifices to_net_of_his and_he_ _makes_smoke to_his_fishing_of_net if/because by_them is_ _rich portion_of_his and_food_of_his is_fat. **17** There- fore will_he_empty net_of_his and_continually to_kill nations not will_he_spare.
2:1 At post_of_my I_will_stand and_I_will_take_my_stand on the_fortification and_I_will_watch to_see what will_he_speak by_me and_what will_I_bring_back on complaint_of_my.

2 And_he_answered_me **YHWH** and_he/it_said write_down the_vision and_make_it_clear on the_tablets so_that one_ _who_reads in_him/it he_may_run. **3** If/because still the_ _vision is_for_time and_it_will_pant to_end and_not it_will_ _lie if it_will_delay wait to_him/it if/because surely_(come) it_will_come not it_will_delay. **4** THERE it_is_swollen not self_ _of_his it_is_upright in/on/over_him/it and_the_righteous by_faithfulness_of_his he_will_live.

5 And_also if/because (the)_wine is_acting_treacherously a_ _man proud and_not he_stays_at_home who he_has_made_ _large like_Shə'ōl throat_of_his and_he is_like_death and_not he_is_satisfied and_he_has_gathered to_him/it all_of the_ _nations and_he_has_assembled to_him/it all_of the_peoples. **6** Am_not these_nations of_them_of_all on/upon/above_ _him/it a_saying will_they_lift_up and_a_mocking_song riddles to_him/it and_will_someone_say woe_to the_one_ _who_increases that_which_not to_him/it until when and_ _one_who_makes_heavy on/upon/above_him/it pledge[s]. **7** Am_not suddenness those_of_who_pay_interest_to_you will_they_arise and_ those_of_who_will_make_you_tremble _ _will_they_awake and_you_will_become (into)_plunder(s) for_them. **8** If/because[10] you you_have_plundered nations many they_will_plunder_you all_of the_rest_of the_peoples from_the_blood(s)_of humankind and_the_violence_of the_ _land the_town and_all those_who_dwell_of in_it. **9** Woe_to one_who_gains unjust_gain evil for_house_of_his to_set on_ _places nest_of_his to_deliver_himself from_the_palm_of evil. **10** You_have_planned shame for_house_of_your by_cutting_ _off peoples many and_you_have_sinned self_of_your. **11** If/because a_stone from_the_wall it_will_cry_out and_a_ _rafter from_tree it_will_answer_it. **12** Woe_to one_who_ _builds a_city by_blood(s) and_he_establishes a_town by_ _injustice. **13** Am_not THERE from_with **YHWH** soldiers/messengers and_ peoples _they_labour for_the_ _sufficiency_of fire and_nations for_the_sufficiency_of emptiness they_grow_weary. **14** If/because the_earth/land it_ _will_be_filled to_know ~~DOM~~ the_glory_of **YHWH** like_waters which_they_cover over the_sea. **15** Woe_to one_who_makes_ _drink_of his/its_neighbour one_who_mixes rage_of_your and_even you_make_them_drunk so_as to_look on

Readers' Version

14 You've made those people like the fish of the sea—
like reptiles that have no ruler.
15 The invader brings them all up with a fishhook.
He drags them up with his fishing net.
He catches them all in his drag net,
which makes him happily celebrate.
16 Therefore he sacrifices to his fishing net
and burns incense to his drag net,
because it's his net that gives him plenty of food,
and his food is the richest kind.
17 So will he keep harvesting with his net?
Will he continue destroying nations without mercy?
2:1 I'll stand at my guard post and station myself on the watchtower,
and I'll wait there to see what he will say to me,
and how I should respond when I'm corrected.

Yahweh's second response to Havakuk · Southern kingdom

2 Yahweh responded, saying:
"Write this vision clearly onto tablets so that messengers can run with them and read them aloud. **3** This vision is for a future time, but in the end anyone waiting for it will see it happen, because when it comes, it won't delay.[7]
4 Listen, those who don't have noble desires are puffed up,
but godly people live by their faith.[8]

The punishment of sinners · Southern kingdom

5 Wine betrays the arrogant man so that he won't rest.
His appetite becomes like the cemetery—always wanting more,
and like death which is never satisfied.
The invader takes over all the nations,
and captures every people group.
6 Won't all those peoples create a saying to ridicule the invader and a taunting song and riddles about him? They'll say 'It won't end well for those who take what doesn't belong to them. As you take more and more, it will become heavier and heavier for you.'
7 Won't those you've taken from suddenly organise themselves—
won't you tremble when they wake up?
Then you'll become spoil for *them*
8 because you've plundered many nations.
All the remnants of the nations will plunder you because you've taken lives
and acted with violence against the land and cities, and everyone who lives in them.
9 It won't end well for anyone who's used evil gains to furnish his house.
He wanted to set his nest on high to keep himself safe from the hand of evil,
10 but because you've destroyed many nations,
you've brought guilt onto yourself.
11 The stones in the wall will cry out,

7 RV 2:3 · Cross-ref. Heb 10:37.

8 RV 2:4 · Cross-ref. Rom 1:17; Gal 3:11; Heb 10:38.

10 LV 2:8 · Note OSHB note: We agree with both BHS 1997 and BHQ on an unexpected reading.

Readers' Version

and the timber rafters will answer them.
12 It won't end well for anyone who builds a city with blood,
or who establishes a town with wickedness.
13 Listen, isn't it Commander-in-chief Yahweh who ensures that
those peoples are just playing with fire
and those nations will just get exhausted from their efforts?
14 The world will be filled with the knowledge of Yahweh's splendour
as surely as the oceans are filled with water.[9]
15 It won't end well for anyone (nation) who forces their neighbour to drink—
you'll pour your anger out on them to make them drunk
so that their nakedness becomes exposed.
16 You'll be filled with shame instead of honour.
Now it's your turn—drink and then your uncircumcision will be exposed.
The cup in Yahweh's powerful right hand is coming around to you,
and your honour will be covered over with disgrace.
17 The violence done to Levanon will bounce back and overwhelm you,
and the destruction of animals will terrify you,
because you've taken lives
and you've acted with violence against the land and the cities, and everyone who lives in them.
18 How can an idol profit you when it was just formed and shaped by its human maker?
It's a teacher of lies because its maker uses his own imagination when he makes these speechless 'gods'.
19 It won't end well for anyone who tells the piece of wood to wake up,
or for the one who tells that speechless stone to stand up.
Can these things teach?
Yes, it might be plated with valuable gold and silver,
but there's absolutely no life in it.
20 In contrast, Yahweh is in his sacred temple.
Let everyone in the world be silent in his presence.

Havakuk's prayerful song · Southern kingdom

3:1 A prayer of the prophet Havakuk (Habakkuk) designed to be sung:[11]
2 Yahweh, I've heard the report about what you've done,
and I'm in awe of your work, Yahweh.
Do it again in our times—
show us again in this age.
Despite your severe anger, remember to have compassion.
3 God came in from Teyman in Edom,
and the sinless one from Mt. Paran. (Instrumental break.)
His splendour blanketed the skies,

Literal Version

nakedness(es)_of_their. **16** You_are_satisfied shame more_
_than_honour also you drink and_be_counted_as_
_uncircumcised it_will_come_round to_you the_cup_of the_
_right_hand_of **YHWH** and_disgrace will_be_over honour_of_
_your. **17** If/because the_violence_of Ləvānōn it_will_cover_
_you and_the_devastation_of animals it_will_terrify_them
from_the_blood(s)_of humankind and_the_violence_of the_
_land the_town and_all those_who_dwell_of in_it. **18** What a_
_carved_image does_it_profit if/because he_has_carved_it
the_of_one_who_formed_it a_molten_image and_that_which_
_teaches falsehood if/because the_one_who_formed form_of_
_its he_relies on/upon/above_him/it for_doing idols dumb.
19 Woe_to one_who_says to_wood wake_up awake to_a_
_stone_of silence it will_it_teach THERE it is_sheathed gold
and_silver and_all breath there_is_not within_it. **20** And_
**YHWH** in(the)_palace his_holiness_of_his hush from_
_before_of_him all_of the_earth/land.

3:1 A_prayer of_Ḥₐvaqqūq the_prophet on shiggionoth. **2** Oh_
_**YHWH** I_have_heard report_of_your I_fear Oh_**YHWH** work_
_of_your in_the_midst_of years restore_it in_the_midst_of
years you_will_make_it_known in_severe_anger to_have_
_compassion you_will_remember. **3** god[13] from_Tēymān he_
_comes and_the_holy_one from_hill of_Pā'rān Ṣelāh
splendour_of_his it_has_covered the_heavens and_praise_of_
_his the_earth/land it_has_filled. **4** And_brightness like_light
it_is two_horns from_hand_of_his to_him/it and_there the_
_hiding_place_of his_strength_of_his.[14][15] **5** Before_him
pestilence it_goes and_ plague _it_goes_out to_feet_of_his.
6 He_stood and_he_shook the_earth he_has_seen and_he_
_has_made_jump nations and_ mountains_of antiquity _they_

9 **RV 2:14 · Cross-ref.** Isa 11:9.

11 **RV 3:1 · Note** The meaning of the Hebrew word transliterated 'shigyonot' is unknown, but assumed to be some kind of musical directive. (Also in Song/Psalm 7:0.)

13 **LV 3:3 · Note** OSHB note: We agree with both BHS 1997 and BHQ on an unexpected reading.

14 **LV 3:4 · Note** OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

15 **LV 3:4 · Note** OSHB note: We have abandoned or added a ketib/qere relative to BHS. In doing this we agree with L against BHS.

Literal Version

_have_been_shattered hills_of antiquity they_have_bowed_
_down goings_of antiquity to_him/it. **7** Under trouble I_have_
_seen the_tents_of Kūshān/(Cushan) they_tremble the_tent_
_curtains_of the_land_of Midyān. **8** On_rivers Oh_**YHWH** has_
_it_burnt or on_rivers anger_of_is_your or on_sea fury_of_is_
_your that/for/because/then/when you_will_ride on horses_
_of_your chariots_of_your salvation. **9** Bareness bow_of_your
it_is_made_bare oaths arrows a_message Ṣelāh rivers you_
_split_open the_earth. **10** They_have_seen_you mountains
they_writhe a_storm_of water it_has_passed_over the_deep
it_has_given_forth voice_of_its height_of hands_of_its it_has_
_lifted. **11** Sun moon it_has_stood_still lofty_residence_(to)_a
to_light_of arrows_of_your they_go to_brightness_of the_
_lightning_flash_of your_spear_of_your. **12** In_indignation
you_march the_earth in_anger you_trample_down nations.
13 You_have_gone_out for_the_salvation_of your_people_of_
_your for_the_salvation ~~DOM~~ your_of_anointed you_have_
_smashed the_leader from_the_house_of the_wicked you_
_have_laid_bare foundation[s] to neck Ṣelāh. **14** You_pierced
with_his_own_of_arrows the_head_of his[16] they_storm to_
_scatter_me exultation_of_their was_like to_devour the_
_afflicted in_place. **15** You_trod on_sea horses_of_your a_
_heap_of waters many. **16** I_heard and_ belly_of_my _it_
_trembled to_sound/voice lips_of_my they_quivered
rottenness it_came in_bones_of_my and_under_me I_
_trembled that I_will_be_quiet for_the_day_of trouble to_
_come_up to_the_people which_it_attacks_us. **17** If/because
the_fig_tree not it_buds and_there_is_not produce on_vines
the_product_of the_olive_tree it_fails and_fields not it_
_produces food someone_cuts_off from_the_fold the_flock
and_there_are_not cattle in_stalls. **18** And_I in_**YHWH** I_will_
_exult I_will_rejoice in_the_god_of my_salvation_of_my.
19 **YHWH**[171819] my_master strength_of_is_my and_he/it_
_assigned feet_of_my like_does and_on places_of_my_high
he_makes_me_tread to_choirmaster with_stringed_
_instruments.

Readers' Version

and the earth was full of his praise.
4 His brightness was like the light—
rays flashed from his hand
where he kept his power.
5 Deadly disease went ahead of him,
then the plague followed along behind.
6 He stood and measured the earth.
He looked and made the nations tremble.
Even the ancient mountains were shattered,
and the everlasting hills bowed down.
His ways are everlasting.
7 I saw the people in tents in Kushan in trouble.
The tent curtains in the Midyan region were trembling.
8 Was your rage against the rivers, Yahweh?
Was your anger against the rivers,
or your fury against the ocean,
when you rode in on your horses and your victorious chariots?
9 You got your bow out ready to use.
Each arrow was a promise you'd made. (Instrumental break.)
You split the earth open with rivers.
10 The mountains saw you and twisted in pain.
A storm brought heavy rain down on them.
The deep sea raised its voice—
it sent up high waves.
11 The sun and moon have stopped in their places
with the light from your arrows as they fly by,
yes, with the gleam of your flashing spear.
12 You have marched over the world in your fury.
You've trampled down the nations in anger.
13 You went out to rescue your people—
to save your anointed one.
You crush the leader of the house of wicked people
to strip him from the thigh up to the neck. (Instrumental break.)
14 You have pierced the head of his warriors with his own arrows,
since they came like a storm to scatter us—
their gloating was like someone who destroys weak people in secret.
15 You trod on top of the sea with your horses—
churning the many waters.
16 I heard, and my insides turned to jelly.
My lips quivered at the sound.
My bones start aching, and my legs tremble beneath me.
However, I will wait quietly for the day of distress to hit the people who invaded us.
17 Even if the fig tree doesn't produce buds
and there is no fruit on the grapevines,
and although the olive tree stops producing,
and the fields yield no food,
and although the sheep and goats can't return to their pens,

16 **LV 3:14 · Note** OSHB variant note: וְ/זֹרֵם: (x-qere) וְ/זֹרְפֵ֑ם: lemma_6518 n_1.1 morph_HNcmpc/Sp3ms id_35uf4 וְ/זֹרְפֵ֑ם

17 **LV 3:19 · Note** OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

18 **LV 3:19 · Note** OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

19 **LV 3:19 · Note** OSHB note: We read punctuation in L differently from BHS.

Readers' Version

and there are no cattle in their stalls,
18 I'll still praise Yahweh.
I'll celebrate because God saves me.
19 I trust my master Yahweh for my strength,
and he makes my feet agile like a deer's feet.
He helps me climb up to my high places.[12]
For the musical director, on my stringed instruments.

HAB · OET-RV v0.2.1

Literal Version

HAB · OET-LV v0.2.0 (OT set)

Text preprocessed by script v1.1.0, then PDF produced by SILE v0.15.12-0938a45-flake
https://Freely-Given.org/OBD/OET/byDoc/HAB.htm#Top

12 RV 3:19 · Cross-ref. 2Sam 22:34; Psa 18:33.