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 · OET.Bible
Copyright © 2010-2026 Freely-Given.org. CC BY-SA 4.0. 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.

Literal Version

1:1 The_oracle[1234] which ḤaVaqqūq 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.

---

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

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
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

Readers' Version

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?
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 fish-hook.
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

Readers' Version

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]
5 Wine betrays the arrogant man so that he won't rest.

The punishment of sinners · Southern kingdom

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,
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

Literal Version

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
nakedness(es)_of_their. 16 You_are_satisfied
shame more_than_honour also you drink and_be_
_counted_as_uncircumcised it_will_come_round

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.

Literal Version

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_

Readers' Version

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

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.)

Readers' Version

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,
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

Literal Version

_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_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_

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.

16 LV 3:14 · Note OSHB variant note: זרפ/ו: (x-qere) זרפ֥ו/ֽ: lemma_6518 n_1.1 morph_HNcmpc/Sp3ms id_35uf4 זרפ֥ו/ֽ

Literal Version

_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

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,
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 instru-

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

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

ments.

Literal Version

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