

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
**I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.***

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

#04-10117

The Lord is in His Holy Temple —

September 7, 2010

Be Silent!

Habakkuk the prophet was called onto the stage of world history prior to judgment coming upon Judah. His one prophetic book was probably written after the fall of Nineveh and of Jerusalem, both of which fell to the Babylonians. This dates his prophecy between 612-587 BC, most likely in the middle of this period.

Without doubt, Habakkuk's prophecy was written for an ancient time; nevertheless, it is contemporary to our time as well. In fact, it is a prophecy for our time and the age to come. In many respects, we are living it today and about to experience the good of it.

The Lord was going to judge them with the iron yoke of Babylonian captivity. They had been offered the opportunity to repent and come under a wooden yoke, but they refused it, so God raised up the impetuous Chaldeans to remove them from the land. The yokes are God's judgments upon His people. A **wooden yoke** allows them to remain on their land, but under foreign rule; an **iron yoke** removes them from their land, sending them into captivity in foreign lands and under foreign rule.

Today, we are under the judgment of a wooden yoke that was placed upon our necks when President **Woodrow** Wilson signed the **Federal Reserve Act** in 1913, which turned our economy and financial system over to a cartel of international banking houses that answer to no one and refuse to open their books to anyone. Since then, they have given us inflation and deflation, depression and recession. Simply, we are in bondage to **the mother of harlots, Mystery Babylon**. As a nation, especially an Israelite nation, we have brought this judgment upon ourselves. Again, consider Habakkuk.

(3) Why do You make me see iniquity, and cause me to look on wickedness? Yes, destruction and violence are before me; strife exists and contention arises. (4) Therefore the law is ignored and justice is never upheld. For the wicked surround the righteous; therefore justice comes out perverted. (Habakkuk 1:3-4 NASB)

Is this not our day as well? Wickedness, injustice, and violence abound! Look at the violence on our southern border with Mexico. Consider the political strife that divides our country nearly in half. The more laws that are enacted, the more lawlessness there is. The righteous are surrounded with many who are of **the spirit of antichrist**. And, to top it off, most of the church has abandoned the law of God because they think God abandoned it for the sake of grace. But what does the Lord say?

“Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because I am doing something in your days—you would not believe if you were told.” (Habakkuk 1:5 NASB)

The Lord was raising up the fierce and impetuous Chaldeans who seized the property of others and whose justice and authority originated with themselves, whose strength was their god (Habakkuk 1:6, 7, 11). Do I need to point out the parallels to our day? Our government seizes private property so corporations can build on it to make money for themselves; all in the name of the common good. Our government has become so arrogant that they say they can and will do whatever they so desire, even if it is against the will of the people. Many of our leaders have become gods in their own minds and want the nation to see their form of government as a god to take care of the people. It is called bondage.

If you are still unsure of what I say in regard to our time, then read Habakkuk 2:6-19 and meditate on the **woes**, for you will see **greed** (6-7), **injustice** (9-11), **violence** (12-13), **seduction** (15-17), and **idolatry** (18-19). Does this not sound like Mystery Babylon (Revelation 18) to you?

What did Habakkuk do in his day, and what did the Lord reveal to him? This is the good news. Habakkuk did not wallow in the mire of what was coming; instead he kept watch and listened for the Lord.

I will stand on my guard post and station myself on the rampart; and I will keep watch to see what He will speak to me, and how I may reply when I am reproved. (Habakkuk 2:1 NASB)

Habakkuk was ready to be reproved by the Lord for his questioning, but the Lord was gracious to the prophet and encouraged him to live by faith in the midst of all the evil and wickedness as he waited for the appointed time of the vision.

(2) Then the LORD answered me and said, “Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets, that the one who reads it may run. (3) For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; for it will certainly come, it will not delay. (4) Behold, as for the proud one, his soul is not right within him; but the righteous will live by his faith. (Habakkuk 2:2-4 NASB)

Is there any doubt over how contemporary these words are to us today? These exact words about living by faith are quoted by Paul three times (Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38), and the third time is a direct reference to the return of the Lord. This is the vision! The Lord is coming!

(36) For you have need of patience, that having done the will of God you may obtain the promise. (37) For, yet a very little while, and the One coming will come, “and will not delay.” Hab. 2:3 (38) “But the just shall live by faith;” “and if he draws back,” “My soul is not pleased in him.” Hab. 2:4; Zeph. 1:6; Mal. 1:10 (Hebrews 10:36-38 LITV)

The Lord will not delay His coming. He is coming at the appointed time fixed by the Father's own authority. His **First Coming** ended with a precise fulfillment of the spring feasts of **Passover, Wave-Sheaf Offering, and Pentecost**. His **Second Coming** will begin with a precise fulfillment of the fall feasts of **Trumpets, Atonement, and Tabernacles**. These are the appointed times.

Immediately following the first three woes, the Lord asked a question and gave the answer. We need to see His question and answer in the present tense, as if speaking directly to us now.

(13) “Is it not indeed from the Lord of hosts that peoples toil for fire, and nations grow weary? (14) For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.” (Habakkuk 2:13-14 NASB)

The Lord causes us to grow weary so that we come to the end of ourselves. The nations must be brought to the place of knowing that they are on the wrong track, and it will be wearisome as long as they stay on it. Their glory is of no value. What is the solution? It is coming into the knowledge of the glory of God. But where is the knowledge of the glory of God to be found? Is it not in **New Jerusalem, the holy celestial city, having the glory of God, the city of life** that will send forth life to all mankind, even to all creation? New Jerusalem is more than knowledge; it is glory itself, for it is the very life of God in His Son and the many sons of glory (Hebrews 2:10). But there is more. After speaking all the woes, the Lord makes a mighty declaration about Himself and New Jerusalem.

“But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him.” (Habakkuk 2:20 NASB)

The Lord is not in some physical temple of stone. No! Where is His temple today? Where will it be in the ages to come? Today, His Holy Temple is a people (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:16). In the ages to come, it will be a corporate body of sons called **New Jerusalem, who have grown into a Holy Temple in the Lord, having been built together into a Dwelling of God in Spirit** (Ephesians 2:19-22). This temple is in the image of the Son of God.

Today, *this very day*, the word of the Lord to all the nations of the earth is this: “Hush! Be silent! I have not delayed; I have come to occupy **My Holy Temple, New Jerusalem**. I have come to manifest My sons, **the sons of glory**. The time has come to raise them up and transfigure them into My image so that the knowledge of **the glory of the Lord** will fill the earth, as the waters cover the sea.”