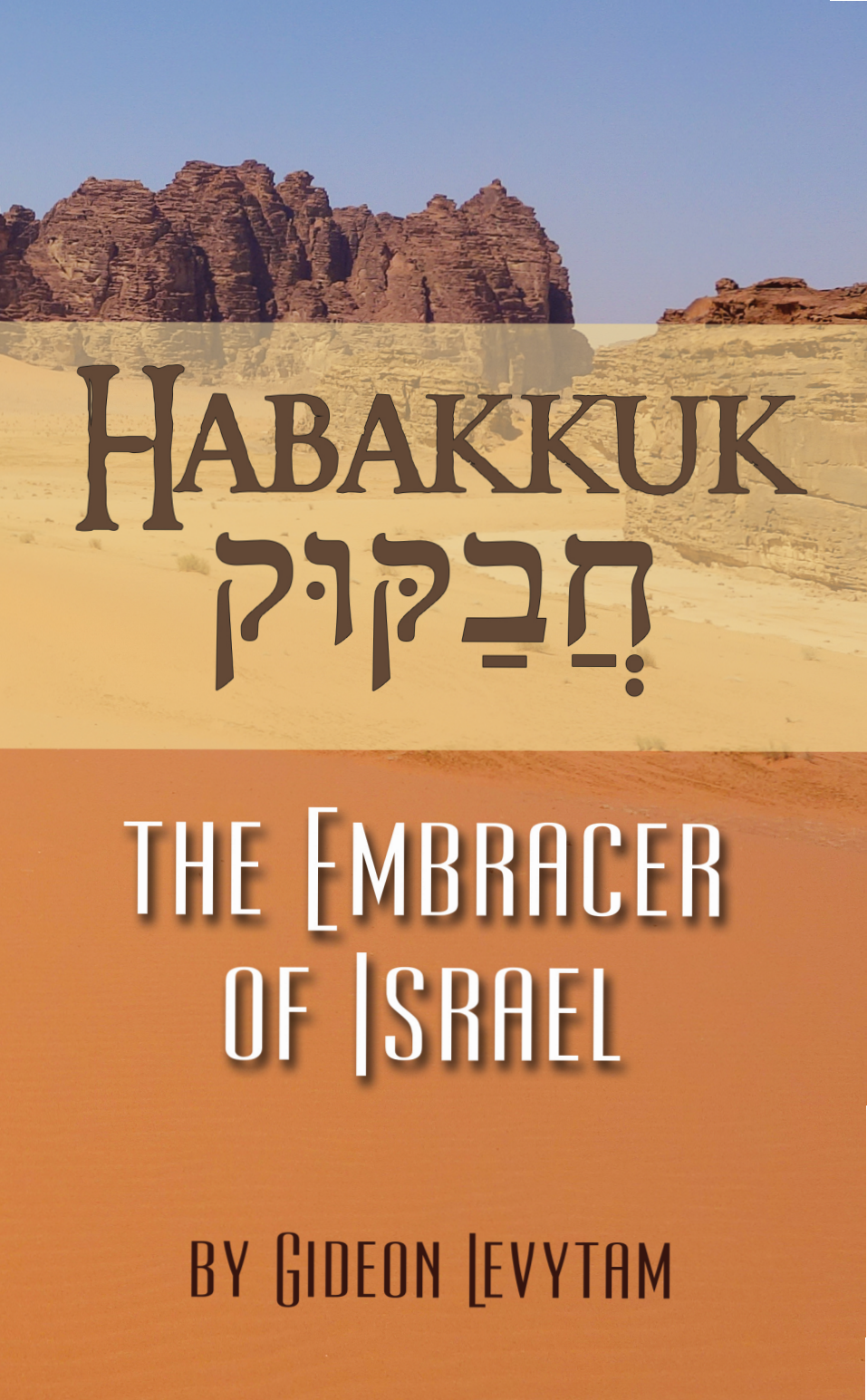




HABAKKUK חֲבַקּוּק

THE EMBRACER OF ISRAEL

BY GIDEON LEVYTAM

HABAKKUK

חֲבַקּוּק

THE EMBRACER
OF ISRAEL

BY GIDEON LEVYTAM

2015 Published and Distributed By

“The Holy Scriptures and Israel” Bible Society of Canada
P.O. Box 1411, Niagara-on-the-Lake
Ontario, L0S 1J0 Canada

www.holyscripturesandisrael.com

“The Holy Scriptures and Israel” Bible Society of Canada
P.O. Box 677, Hawkesbury
Ontario, K6A 3C8 Canada
Copyright © 2015 by

“The Holy Scriptures and Israel” Bible Society of Canada
All rights reserved.
ISBN: 978-0-9733339-5-4

Phone: (905) 468-2723 OrderLine (905) 325-1234
E-mail: gideon@holyscripturesandisrael.com

Visit us online at www.holyscripturesandisrael.com

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Chapter 1: The Burden of Habakkuk	3
Chapter 2: The Prayer of Habakkuk	25

Introduction

Anyone who reads the Bible will find a study of the minor prophets to be instructive and helpful. When we hear the expression “minor” prophets, we may conclude that they are not as important as the major prophets, such as Isaiah (*Yeshaaiah*), Jeremiah (*Yermiah*), or Ezekiel (*Yehezkel*).

The fact is, however, the minor prophets are no less important than the major ones. Every portion of the Word of God—which teaches us God’s ways of dealing with His people Israel—is equally valuable. Habakkuk was interested in solving problems among the people of Israel. To do so, he conversed with God, looking to Him for answers to his concerns for his people, whom he dearly loved.

Just as God spoke to His people through the Prophet Habakkuk, He also speaks to us in this present day so that we may learn the lessons Israel had to learn. Regarding the Scriptures, the Apostle Paul (*Shaul*) wrote: “*For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope*” (Rom. 15:4). Later he added: “*Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come*” (1 Cor. 10:11).

As you study this book, I hope and pray that you will develop Habakkuk’s love for Israel—and for all God’s people—in your own life, and that you will emulate Paul, whose love for the people of Israel was so great that he wrote:

*For I could wish that myself were accursed
from [Messiah] for my brethren, my kinsmen
according to the flesh: Who are Israelites; to
whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory,
and the covenants, and the giving of the law,
and the service of God, and the promises
(Rom. 9:3-4).*

The Book of Habakkuk can be divided into two sections:

1. In Chapters 1-2, we read about the burden that Habakkuk had for his people. Habakkuk voices two complaints, and God gives him two answers.

2. In Chapter 3, we read Habakkuk's response to the Lord, which is a prayer to God. Ultimately we discover that Habakkuk was longing for and anticipating the coming Messiah of Israel, who is none other than the Lord Yeshua (Jesus).

CHAPTER 1

The Burden of Habakkuk the Prophet

In Habakkuk 1:1—2:1, we read the dialogue between Habakkuk and God. Habakkuk shared something and God gave him an answer. Through this dialogue, we learn that Habakkuk had a personal relationship with the God of Israel.

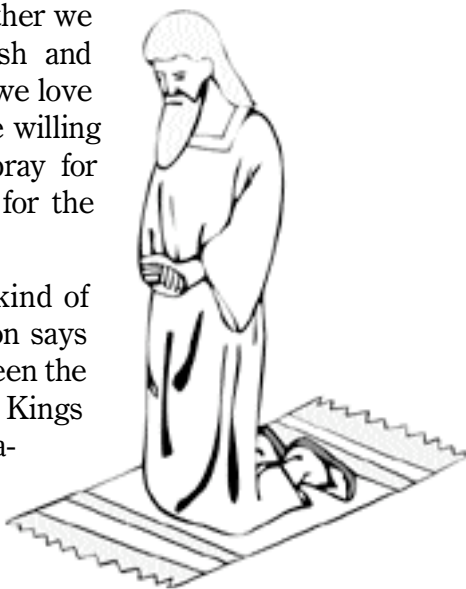
Usually, when the Hebrew prophets preached, they gave the nation of Israel a message they had received from God. Remember, there was a difference between a Hebrew prophet and a Hebrew priest. A priest had his back to the people and his face toward God; a prophet had his back to God and his face toward the people. A prophet (Heb., *navi*) would minister to the people and tell them: “Thus saith the Lord.”

In the Book of Habakkuk, however, it is not so. Habakkuk is the only prophet who did not speak directly to the people, but instead spoke to God himself. Let’s discuss Habakkuk for a bit. His name comes from the Hebrew word *lech-abek*, which means “to embrace.” Habakkuk really wanted to embrace the people of Israel—the people of God—whom he loved so dearly.

The Bible does not tell us anything of Habakkuk’s background, who his parents were, or where in the Land of Israel he was born. We read only of “the burden which Habakkuk the prophet did see” (1:1). He is like a messenger who loved God’s people very much. We all should be like him, and we

should ask ourselves whether we love God's people—Jewish and non-Jewish believers. Do we love the people of God? Are we willing to sacrifice our time to pray for them? Are we concerned for the people of God?

Habakkuk was this kind of a man. The Jewish tradition says that Habakkuk may have been the son of the Shunamite in 2 Kings 4:16. Elisha told the Shunamite that she will yet “embrace” a son.



Verses 1 through 5 of Chapter 1 suggest that the Book of Habakkuk was written sometime before 612 B.C., because in 612 B.C. Nineveh fell into the hands of the Babylonians. Before that, the people of Babylon were not known as a great and mighty nation.

It is very possible that sometime prior to that, maybe in 625 B.C., Habakkuk had a burden and a concern for the people. What was the state of the people of Israel and Judah at that time? I would like to suggest that it was very low; perhaps it was similar to the state of the Church of the Lord Jesus the Messiah in this present day. There were divisions and problems among the people.

In fact, the Bible tells us that violence, iniquity, and the breaking of the Law were common. Revelation 3 talks about the Church of Laodicea and describes the decline of the Church just before the Second Coming of the Messiah. Judah was in

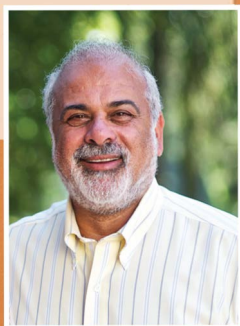
HABAKKUK

THE EMBRACER OF ISRAEL

Habbakuk, a Jewish prophet of the Old Testament, had a burden for his people Israel, whom he dearly loved.

He voiced two complaints to God - and God gave him two answers. What God told him gives us a lesson in how to handle difficult times in our lives.

In this verse-by-verse study, Gideon Levytam gives this major message from a minor prophet.



Gideon Levytam



The
Holy Scriptures and Israel
Bible Society

The Holy Scriptures and Israel
Bible Society of Canada
426 Simcoe Street Box 1411
Niagara-on-the-lake Ontario
Canada L0S 1J0
www.holyscripturesandisrael.com

ISBN 978-0-9733339-5-4



9 780973 333954



90000