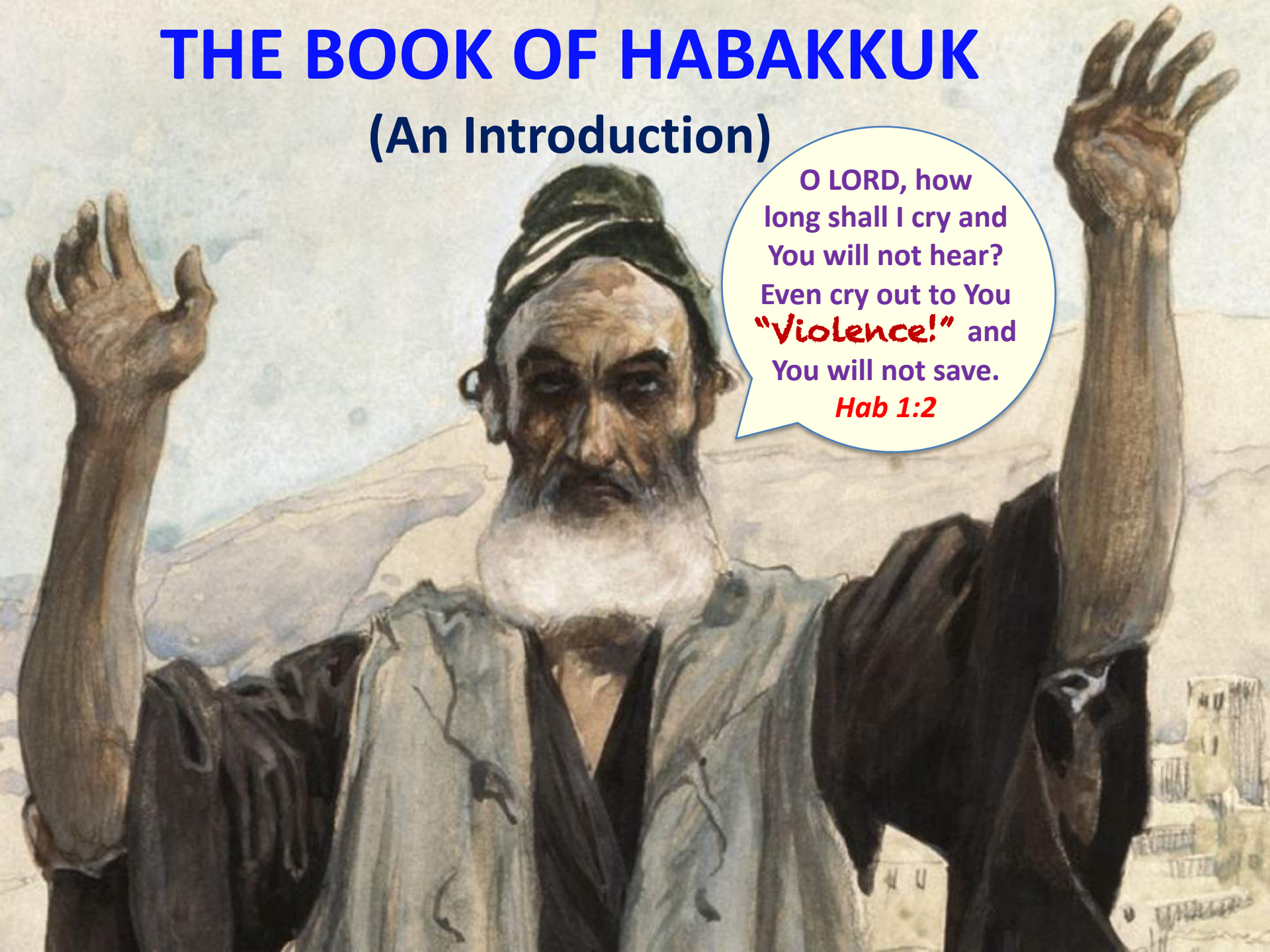


THE BOOK OF HABAKKUK

(An Introduction)

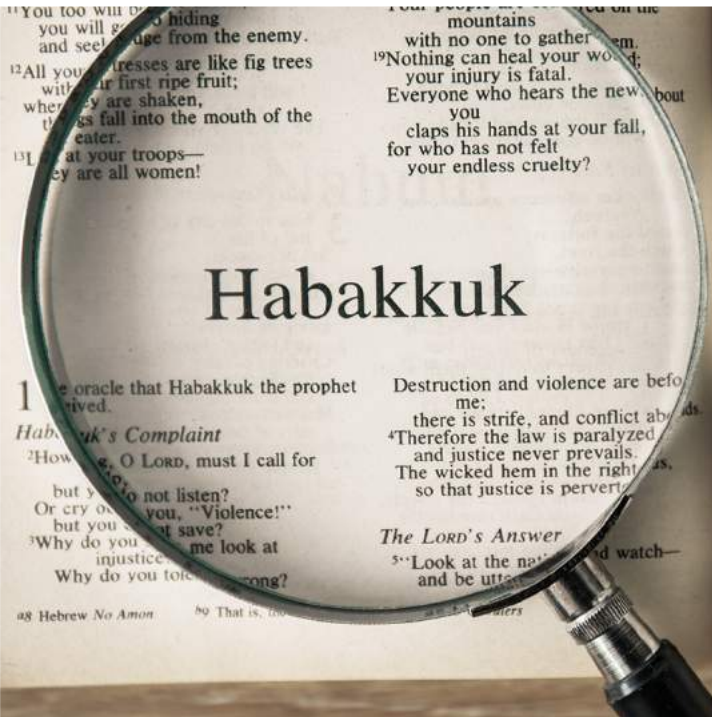


O LORD, how
long shall I cry and
You will not hear?
Even cry out to You
"Violence!" and
You will not save.

Hab 1:2

OVERVIEW OF THE MESSAGE

INTRODUCTION TO HABAKKUK



- Introduction
- The exchange
- The themes
- Conclusion

INTRODUCTION

The book is unusual as a prophetic book in that it never addresses the people of Judah directly where Habakkuk resided. Rather it is a dialogue between the prophet and God.

The prophet Habakkuk was probably a contemporary of Zephaniah and Jeremiah, and possibly even of Ezekiel and Daniel. He probably prophesied no later than the end of Josiah's reign (640–609 B.C.).

Habakkuk saw Judah's rapid moral and spiritual decline, and this deeply troubled him. Yet God's response puzzled him even more. How could a good and just God use a more wicked nation (Babylon) to punish a less wicked one (Judah)? God makes it clear that both nations are to be judged and appropriately punished for their sin.

INTRODUCTION

722 B.C.

Fall of Israel

c. 640 B.C.

Prophetic ministry
of Habakkuk

586 B.C.

Fall of Judah

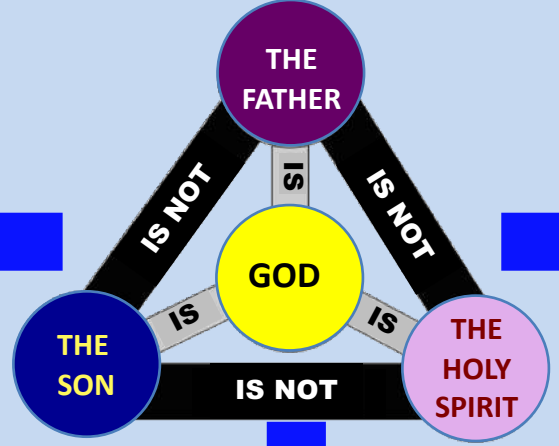
c. 620 B.C.

THE exact date of the Habakkuk's prophecies is difficult to determine but it is likely that he prophesied a short time before the Babylonian invasions of Judah, which began in 605 B.C.

At this time the Assyrian Empire was in decline, and the Babylonians were rising to replace them as the dominant power in the Near East.



The exchange between God and a bitter Habakkuk



The Exchange!

between God and Man

1:5-11
Judgment in the Making
RESPONSE

2:1-20
The Righteous Militant
faithful
DEFENSE

3:3-15
His Majestic Power and Mighty Works
VISION

COMPLAINT
God responsible for Violence and Injustice
1:2-4

EVALUATION
Violates God's Character
1:12-17

PRAYER
Expression of Awe and Request for Mercy
3:1-2

TESTIMONY
Joy in the Face of Judgment
3:16-19



Habakkuk leaves the exchange in a state of Praise!

THE THEMES

1. God is just and merciful, even though his people may not always understand his ways (2:4).
2. Wickedness will eventually be punished, and the righteous will ultimately see God's justice (2:5–20).
3. God uses some wicked nations to punish other wicked nations, but ultimately God will judge all nations (1:6; 2:5–20).
4. The key phrase “the righteous shall live by his faith” (2:4) summarizes God's plan for his people. It is quoted three times in the NT (Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38).

C O N C L U S I O N

The Message of Habakkuk

Summary Statement:

God is supremely wise, he is perfectly just, and he is overwhelmingly sovereign in dealing with the nations of the world.