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Numerical Features of the Book of Habakkuk

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Numerical Features of the Book of Habakkuk

A New Approach to its Compositional Structure

Please read the [General Introduction](#)

Various views on the structural design of the book of Habakkuk

The sections marked **blue** are displaced, resulting in a text contrived by the commentator in question.

F. HORST (*Die Zwölf Kleinen Propheten: Nahum bis Maleachi*, in: HAT 14, Tübingen, 1938, 167-182):

1,1.2-4; 1,5-11; 1,12-17; 2,1-5; 2,6-20; 3,1-19.

K. ELLIGER (*Die Propheten Nahum, Habakuk, Zephanja, Haggai, Sacharja, Maleachi*, in: ATD 25, 1951, 22-52):

1,1.2-4; 1,5-11; 1,12-17; 2,1-4; **2,5-6a.6b-8.9-11.12-17a.17b.[18-20]**; 3,1-3-11.12-15.16.17-19.

R.F. VON UNGERN-STERNBERG und H. LAMPARTER, *Die Propheten Habakuk, Zephanja, Jona, Nahum*, in: Die Botschaft

des Alten Testament, 23/IV, 1960: VON UNGERN-STERNBERG, *Der Prophet Habakuk*, pp. 11-72): I: 1.1.2-4; 1,5-11; 1,12-17; II: 2,1-5; III: 2,6-8; 2,9-11; **2,12-14.17a; 2,15.16.17b**; 2,18-20; IV: 3,1; 3,2; 3,3-15; 3,16-17; 3,18-19.

W. RUDOLPH (*Micha-Nahum-Habakuk-Zephanja*, in: KAT XIII/3, 1975, 194-251):

1,1.2-10; 1,5-11; 1,12-17; 2,1-5; 2,6-20; 3,1-19.

A.S. VAN DER WOUDE (*Habakuk, Zephanja*, in: POT, Nijkerk, 1978, 9-75):

1,1.2-4; 1,5-11; | 1,12-17; 2,1-20; | 3,1.2; 3,3-7; 3,8-12; 3,13-15; 3,16; 3,17-19.

R. SMITH (*Micah-Malachi*, in: WBC 32, 1984, 91-117):

1. 1,1.2-4; **2.** 1,5-11; **3.** 1,12-17; **4.** 4,1-5; **5.** 2,6-20; **6.** 3,1.2; 3,3-7; 3,8-15; 3,16-19.

D.A. DORSEY (*The Literary Structure of the Old Testament: A Commentary on Genesis-Malachi*, Grand Rapids: Baker,

1999, 301-305): 1.1.2-4; 1,5-11; 1,12-17; 2,1-5; 2,6-20; 3,1-19.

F.I. ANDERSEN (*Habakkuk*, in: AB, 2001): I: 1,1; II: 1,2-4; III: 1,5-11; IV: 1,12-17; V: 2,1; VI: 2,2-5; VII: 2,6a.6b-8.9-

11.12-14.15-17.18-19.20; VIII: 3,1.2.3-7. 8-15.16-19b.19c.

K. SPRONK ("Joël, Obadja, Nahum, Zephanja, Haggai, Zacharia, Maleachi", in: *De Bijbel literair*. Onder redactie van Jan

Fokkelman en Wim Weren, Zoetermeer/Kapellen, 2003, 303): 1,2-4; 1,5-11; 1,12-17; 2,1-5; 2,6-20; 3,1-19.

L. PERLITT (*Die Propheten Nahum, Habakuk, Zephanja*, in: ATD 25,1, 2004, 41-96): 1,1.2-4; 1,5-11; 1,12-13; 1,14-17;

2,1-4; 2,5; 2,6-8; 2,9-11; 2,12-14; 2,15-17; 2,18-19; 2,20; 3,1-2; 3,3-7; 3,8-15; 3,16; 3,17; 3,18-19.

J.D. NOGALSKI (*The Book of the Twelve: Micah-Malachi*, in: Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary 18a, Macon GA, 2011,

645-693): 1,1.2-4; 1,5-11; 1,12-17; 2,1-5; 2,6-20; 3,1; 3,2-7; 3,8-15; 3,16-19.

Outline based on extant layout markers, content, and numerical features

The paragraphs marked **blue** are individually and/or collectively highlighted by **17** and **26**.

Section 1: 1,1-17 God's justice and the Babylonian military power

§1: 1,1-4 **Habakkuk's cry to God for help: []**

§2: 1,5-6 **YHWH's response to Habakkuk's prayer: []**

§3: 1,7-11 **Habakkuk elaborates on God's response: []**

§4: 1,12-14 **Habakkuk complains about YHWH's silence: []**

§5: 1,15-17 **Habakkuk elaborates on the fishing metaphor: S**

4 vs; 46 w.
2 vs; 28 w.
17 5 vs; **52(2x26) w.** **119(7x17)**
3 vs; 39 w.
3 vs; 32 w.

Section 2: 2,1-20 The vision Habakkuk had to publish and its ramifications

§1: 2,1-3 **God orders Habakkuk to publish the vision: []**

§2: 2,4-5 **Statement about the righteous and the use of wine: []**

§3: 2,6-8 **Woe to the plunderer: P**

§4: 2,9-11 **Woe to him who enriches himself: P**

§5: 2,12-14 **Woe to him who builds a town with blood: S**

§6: 2,15-17 **Woe to him who makes his neighbours drunk: S**

§7: 2,18 **What profit is an idol?: S**

§8: 2,19-20 **Woe to the idolator; YHWH is in his temple!: P**

3 vs; 44 w.
2 vs; 33 w.
3 vs; **45 w.**
3 vs; **26 w.** **102 (6x17)**
3 vs; **31 w.**
3 vs; 41 w.
1 v; **17 w.**
2 vs; 25 w.

Section 3: 3,1-19 Habakkuk's prayer and his trust in God

§1: 3,1-2 **Preamble to Habakkuk's prayer: []**

§2: 3,3-7 **YHWH's theophany and its manifestation: S**

§3: 3,8-13 **God's conquering advance to save his people: P**

§4: 3,14-15: **The triumph of the Saviour over evil forces: []**

§5: 3,16-19 **Habakkuk rejoices in the God of his salvation: Col.**

2 vs; 20 w.
5 vs; **52 (2x26) w.**
6 vs; 69 w.
2 vs; **17 w.**
4 vs; 55 w.

Quantitative structural analysis of the book of Habakkuk

It cannot be excluded that some of the multiples of **17** and **26** are due to coincidence.

| Ns. | Text | Words | Letters | יְהוָה | Sum words | S/P | Structural Design |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|--------------------|-----|---|
| Section 1 | | 1,1-17 | | God's justice and the Babylonian danger | | | |
| 1 | Hab 1,1 | 5 Heading | 20 | | 5 | | §1 Habakkuk's cry to God for help |
| 2 | Hab 1,2 | 11 | 40 | 1 | 16 | | |
| 3 | Hab 1,3 | 12 41 | 46 | | 28 | | |
| 4 | Hab 1,4 | 18 | 58 | | 46/46 | [] | |
| 5 | Hab 1,5 | 13 | 52 | | 59 | | §2 YHWH's response to Habakkuk's prayer |
| 6 | Hab 1,6 | 15 | 59 | | 74/28 | | |
| 7 | Hab 1,7 | 7 | 28 | | 81 | | §3 Habakkuk elaborates on God's response The paragraph is in its entirety highlighted by 52 (2x26) words. |
| 8 | Hab 1,8 | 15 | 66 | | 96 | | |
| 9 | Hab 1,9 | 9 52 (2x26) | 37 | | 105 | | |
| 10 | Hab 1,10 | 13 | 55 | | 118 | | |
| 11 | Hab 1,11 | 8 | 27 | | 126/52 | [] | |
| 12 | Hab 1,12 | 14 | 57 | 2-3 | 140 | | §4 Habakkuk complains about YHWH's silence <u>1,5-14</u> (§§2-4) Altogether 119 (7x17) words: 28 + 52 + 39 = 119. |
| 13 | Hab 1,13 | 17 | 65 | | 157 | | |
| 14 | Hab 1,14 | 8 | 26 | | 165/39 | [] | |
| 15 | Hab 1,15 | 11 | 48 | | 176 | | §5 Habakkuk elaborates on the fish metaphor |
| 16 | Hab 1,16 | 12 | 48 | | 188 | | |
| 17 | Hab 1,17 | 9 | 33 | | 197/32 | S | |
| 17 | Section 1 | 197 | 765 (45x17) | 3x | 197 | | Sealed by 17 verses and 765 (45x17) letters. |
| Section 2 | | 2,1-20 | | The vision Habakkuk is ordered to publish | | | |
| 18 | Hab 2,1 | 15 | 59 | | 212 | | §6 God orders Habakkuk to publish the vision |
| 19 | Hab 2,2 | 12 | 48 | 4 | 224 | | |
| 20 | Hab 2,3 | 17 | 54 | | 241/44 | [] | <u>2,3</u> The text of the vision to be published: 17 words. |
| 21 | Hab 2,4 | 9 | 35 | | 250 | | §7 Statement about the righteous and wine |
| 22 | Hab 2,5 | 24 | 91 | | 274/33 | [] | |
| 23 | Hab 2,6 | 19 | 71 | | 293 | | §8 Woe to the plunderer <u>2,7-8</u> He will be retaliated: 9+17= 26 words. |
| 24 | Hab 2,7 | 9+ | 43 | | 302 | | |
| 25 | Hab 2,8 | 17/26 | 58 | | 319/45 | P | |
| 26 | Hab 2,9 | 11 | 38 | | 330 | | §9 Woe to him who enriches himself In its entirety highlighted by 26 words. |
| 27 | Hab 2,10 | 8 26 | 33 | | 338 | | |
| 28 | Hab 2,11 | 7 | 26 | | 345/26 | P | §10 Woe to him who builds a town with blood |
| 29 | Hab 2,12 | 7 | 28 | | 352 | | |
| 30 | Hab 2,13 | 13 | 50 | 5 | 365 | | |
| 31 | Hab 2,14 | 11 | 36 | 6 | 376/31 | S | <u>2,6-14</u> (§§3-5) Altogether 102 (6x17) words. |
| 32 | Hab 2,15 | 11+ | 42 | | 387 | | §11 Woe to him who makes his neighbours drunk <u>2,15-16</u> He who gazes on their shame will drink God's cup of wrath and be ashamed; 26 words. |
| 33 | Hab 2,16 | 15/26 | 59 | 7 | 402 | | |
| 34 | Hab 2,17 | 15 | 54 | | 417/41 | S | §12 What profit is an idol? 17 words. |
| 35 | Hab 2,18 | 17 | 64 | | 434/17 | S | |
| 36 | Hab 2,19 | 18 | 64 | | 452 | | §13 Woe to the idolator; YHWH is in his temple! |
| 37 | Hab 2,20 | 7 | 27 | 8 | 459/25 | P | |
| 20 | Section 2 | 262 | 980 | 5x | 262 | | Sections 1-2 are sealed by 459 (27x17) words, with |
| 37 | Sections 1-2 | 459 (27x17) | 1745 | 8x | 459 (27x17) | | 234 (9x26) before atnach! |
| Section 3 | | 3,1-19 | | Habakkuk's prayer and his trust in God | | | |
| 38 | Hab 3,1 | 5 Heading | 23 | | 464/5 | | §14 Preamble to Habakkuk's prayer |
| 39 | Hab 3,2 | 15 | 64 | 9-10 | 479/20 | [] | |
| 40 | Hab 3,3 | 13 | 55 | | 492 | | §15 YHWH's theophany and its manifestation Including the mysterious word מְלַח in v. 3, the paragraph is highlighted by 52 (2x26) words. See the Hebrew text below. |
| 41 | Hab 3,4 | 9 | 34 | | 501 | | |
| 42 | Hab 3,5 | 6 52 (2x26) | 24 | | 507 | | |
| 43 | Hab 3,6 | 15 | 59 | | 522 | | |
| 44 | Hab 3,7 | 9 | 38 | | 531/52 | S | |

| | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------|-------|------|-----|--------|----|---|
| 45 | Hab 3,8 | 15 | 60 | 11 | 546 | | §16 God's conquering advance to save his people |
| 46 | Hab 3,9 | 10 | 39 | | 556 | | |
| 47 | Hab 3,10 | 12 | 44 | | 568 | | |
| 48 | Hab 3,11 | 10 | 38 | | 578 | | |
| 49 | Hab 3,12 | 6 | 22 | | 584 | | |
| 50 | Hab 3,13 | 16 | 53 | | 600/69 | P | A missing word added; see the Hebrew text below. |
| 51 | Hab 3,14 | 11 | 49 | | 611 | | §17 The triumph of the saviour over evil forces The end of the prayer is highlighted by 17 words. |
| 52 | Hab 3,15 | 6/17 | 22 | | 617/17 | [] | |
| 53 | Hab 3,16 | 18 | 75 | | 635 | | §18 Habakkuk rejoices in the God of his salvation 3,18-19 Awaiting God's intervention, Habakkuk will rejoice in YHWH who gives him strength: 17 w. |
| 54 | Hab 3,17 | 20 | 74 | | 655 | | |
| 55 | Hab 3,18 | 6+ | 29 | 12 | 661 | | |
| 56 | Hab 3,19 | 11/17 | 53 | 13 | 672/55 | P | |
| 19 | Section 3 | 213 | 855 | 5x | 213 | | Of the 213 words, 130 (5x26) stand before <i>atnach</i> . |
| 56 | Sections 1-3 | 672 | 2600 | 13x | 672 | | Of the 672 words 364 (14x26) stand before <i>atnach</i> . |
| 54 | <Headings> | 662 | 2557 | | 662 | | The emended text is sealed by 2600 letters. |

Observation 1 In the book of Habakkuk (emended text) 46 of the 56 verses (82%) and 545 of the 672 words (81%) are high-lighted by the divine name numbers **17** and **26**.

Observation 2 The symbolic significance of the **54** verses excluding the headings (1,1 and 3,1) is that **54** signifies Habakkuk's signature by means of the numerical value of his name: $8+2+19+6+19=54$ חֲבַקּוּק. Strikingly, the two divine speeches have altogether **54** words, another instance of Habakkuk's signature. See "Words ascribed to God in the book of Habakkuk" below, and for more examples of numerical signatures go to the [General Introduction](#), pages 17-18.

Observation 3 Sections 1-2, Chapters 1-2, are finalized and sealed by having altogether **459** (27x17) words, with **234** (9x26) before *atnach*. Section 3 (3,1-19, emended text) has **130** (5x26) before *atnach*, and to crown it all, of the 672 words (emended text) **364** (14x26) stand before *atnach*.

Crucial passages highlighted by the divine name numbers 17 and 26.

1. God's justice and the Babylonian danger (Section 1: 1,1-17): **17** verses.
2. YHWH's response to Habakkuk's prayer and his renewed complaint (1,5-14): **119** (7x17) words.
3. Habakkuk elaborates on God's response to his prayer (1,7-11): **52** (2x26) words.
4. The text of the vision to be published by Habakkuk (2,3): **17** words.
5. The first three prophetic perorations (2,6-14): **102** (6x17) words.
6. The plunderer will be retaliated (2,7-8): $9+17=26$ words.
7. Woe to him who enriches himself (2,9-11): **26** words.
8. He who gazes on the shame of the drunken will himself be ashamed (2,15-16): **26** words.
9. What profit is an idol? (2,18): **17** words.
10. YHWH's theophany and its manifestation (3,3-7): **52** (2x26) words.
11. The triumph of the Saviour over evil forces by (3,14-15): **17** words.
12. Awaiting his intervention, Habakkuk rejoices in God who gives him strength (3,18-19): **17** words.

Words ascribed to God in the book of Habakkuk

There are only two divine speeches, the second of which is made up of **26** words.

1. YHWH announces that he will rouse the Chaldeans (1,5-6): $0+28=28$ words.
2. YHWH orders Habakkuk to inscribe the vision on tablets (2,2-3): $3+26=29$ words.

Strikingly, the two WAGs have altogether **54** words ($28+26$), which represent the numerical value of the name Habakkuk ($8+2+19+6+19=54$). Compare Observation 2.

Observation 4 Habakkuk's extensive **Prayer** in 3,2-15 is made up of **153** (7x17) words.

Observation 5 The numerical features of WAG 2 (2,2-3) can help us to identify with mathematical precision the text of the vision that Habakkuk was ordered to inscribe on tablets. The divine *order* (v. 2) has **9 words**, while the *text of the vision* (v. 3) consists of **17 words**, altogether **26 words**.

The fact that both divine name numbers were used shows that they have been chosen deliberately in order to emphasize the importance of this particular divine speech and the text Habakkuk had to publish. This entails that the words in verse 4 do not belong to the divine speech, because they are part of Habakkuk's prophetic perorations against the Chaldeans in 2,4-20: they belong to the first of the seven statements. What is more, linking v. 4 to v. 5 brings the words in the first three statements (2,4-11) to **104 (4x26)**.

4. *The reckless will lack an assured future, while the righteous will live by being faithful.*

5. *As for one who is conceited, treacherous, and arrogant, still less will he reach his goal; his throat gapes as wide as Sheol and he is insatiable as Death, rounding up every nation, gathering in all peoples for himself.* (Revised English Bible). For particulars, see the Hebrew text below.

This is not the place to discuss in detail this tricky passage; it must suffice to say that the present proposal may cut the Gordian knot and open new perspectives for the interpretation of Chapter 2.

Habakkuk 1

Heading: 5

Prayer 1: 41

1 המִשָּׁא אֲשֶׁר חִזָּה חִבְקוּק הַנְּבִיא:

2 עַד־אָנֹכָה יִהְיֶה שׁוֹעֲתִי וְלֹא תִשְׁמַע

אֲזַעֲקֶךָ אֱלֹהִים חֲמָס וְלֹא תוֹשִׁיעַ:

3 לָמָּה תִרְאֵנִי אֲוִן וְעָמַל תִּבְיֹט

וְשָׂדֶךְ וְחֲמָס לִנְגֹדֵי וַיְהִי רִיב וּמְדוֹן יִשְׂא:

4 עַל־כֵּן תִּפְוֹג תּוֹרָה וְלֹא־יֵצֵא לְנֹצַח מִשְׁפָּט

כִּי רָשַׁע מִכְתִּיר אֶת־הַצְּדִיק עַל־כֵּן יֵצֵא מִשְׁפָּט מֵעַקֵּל:

1 1,5-6 0+28=28

5 רְאוּ בַגּוֹיִם וְהַבְּיֹטוּ וְהַתְּמַהוּ תִמְהוּ

כִּי־פָעַל פָּעַל בֵּימֵיכֶם לֹא תֵאֱמִינוּ כִּי יִסְפָּר:

6 כִּי־הִנְנִי מְקִים אֶת־הַבְּשׂוּדִים הַגּוֹי הַפֶּנֶר וְהַנְּמִתָּר

תִּהְיֶה לְמִרְחַב־אֶרֶץ לְרֶשֶׁת מִשְׁכָּנוֹת לֹא־לוֹ:

7 אִים וְנוֹרָא הוּא מִמֶּנּוּ מִשְׁפָּטוֹ וְשִׂאתוֹ יֵצֵא:

8 וְקָלוּ מִנְּמָרִים סוּסָיו וְחִדּוּ מִזֹּאבֵי עָרֵב

וּפְשֵׁי פָרְשָׁיו וּפְרָשָׁיו מִרְחוֹק יָבֹאוּ יַעֲפוּ כְּנֶשֶׁר חָשׁ לְאֶכּוּל:

9 כָּל־הָ לְחֲמָס יָבֹאוּ מִגַּמַּת פְּנִיָהּם קְדִימָה וַיֵּאֱסֹף כַּחֹל שָׁבִי:

10 וְהוּא בְּמַלְכִים יִתְקַלֵּס וְרִזְנִים מִשְׁתַּק לּוֹ

הוּא לְכָל־מִבְצָר יִשְׁחַק וַיִּצְבֵּר עָפָר וַיִּלְכְּדָה:

11 אַז חִלַּף רִיחַ וַיַּעֲבֵר וְאֲשָׁם זֶה כַחוֹ לֵאלֹהֵי:

Prayer 2: 39

12 תִּלְוֹא אֶתְּהָ מִקְדָּם יִהְיֶה אֱלֹהֵי קֹדֶשִׁי לֹא נָמוֹת

יִהְיֶה לְמִשְׁפָּט שְׂמֵתוֹ וְצוּר לְהוֹכִיחַ יִסְדֹתוֹ:

13 טָהוֹר עֵינָיִם מִרְאֹת רַע וְהַבְּיֹט אֶל־עָמַל לֹא תוֹכֵל

לָמָּה תִבְיֹט בַּגּוֹיִם תַּחֲרִישׁ בְּבַלְעַ רָשָׁע צְדִיק מִמֶּנּוּ:

14 וְתַעֲשֶׂה אָדָם כְּדָגֵי הַיָּם כְּרֶמֶשׁ לֹא־מִשָּׁל בּוֹ:

Habakkuk elaborates on the fishing metaphor: 32 words 15 כָּל־הָ בְּחַפְּהָ הַעֲלָה יִגְרְהוּ בְּחַרְמוֹ

וַיֵּאֱסָפֶהוּ בְּמִכְמַרְתּוֹ עַל־כֵּן יִשְׂמַח וַיִּגִּיל:

16 עַל־כֵּן יִזְבַּח לְחַרְמוֹ וַיִּקְטֹרַךְ לְמִכְמַרְתּוֹ

כִּי בְהִמָּה שָׂמַן חִלְקוֹ וּמֵאֲכָלוֹ בְּרָאָה:

17 תַעֲלֵ כֵן יִרְיַק חַרְמוֹ וְתִמְיֵד לְהַרְגַּ גּוֹיִם לֹא יַחְמוּל: ׀

Habakkuk 2

Habakkuk awaits God's answer: 15 words

1 על־מִשְׁמַרְתִּי אַעֲמֶדְהָ וְאֶתִּיצְבָּהּ עַל־מִצְוֹר וְאַצְפָּהּ לְרֹאוֹת מִהַיַּדְבַּר־בִּי וּמִהָ אָשִׁיב עַל־תּוֹכַחְתִּי:

2 וַיַּעֲנֵנִי יְהוָה וַיֹּאמֶר

2 3+26=29 The divine order:

כְּתוֹב חֲזוֹן וּבְאֵר עַל־תְּלַחֲתוֹת לְמַעַן יִרְוֶץ קוֹרֵא בּוֹ: (9)

26 The text: 3 כִּי עוֹד חֲזוֹן לְמוֹעֵד וַיִּפַּח לֶקֶץ וְלֹא יִכְזָב

אִם־יִתְמַדְמַמָּה תַּכְּהֶ־לוֹ כִּי־בֹא יִבֹּא לֹא יֵאָחֵר: (17)

4 הִנֵּה עֹפְלָה לֹא־יִשְׁרָה נִפְשׁוֹ בּוֹ וְצַדִּיק בְּאַמוּנָתוֹ יִתְּנֶה:

5 וְאַף כִּי־תִיָּן בּוֹגֵד גִּבֹּר יִהְיֶה וְלֹא יִנְנֶה

1. Statement about the righteous and wine: 33

אֲשֶׁר הִרְחִיב כִּשְׂאוֹל נִפְשׁוֹ וְהוּא כַּמּוֹת וְלֹא יִשְׁבַּע

וַיֵּאָסֶף אֵלָיו כָּל־הַגּוֹזִים וַיִּקְבֹּץ אֵלָיו כָּל־הָעַמִּים:

2. Woe to the plunderer: 45

6 הֲלוֹא־אֵלֶּה כָּלֶם עָלָיו מִשָּׁל יִשְׂאוּ וּמִלִּיצָה תִּיּוֹדוֹת לוֹ

וַיֹּאמֶר הוֹי הַמְרַבֶּה לֹא־לוֹ עַד־מָתִי וּמִכְּבִיד עָלָיו עֲבָטִיט:

7 הֲלוֹא פָתַע יִקְוֹמוּ נִשְׁכִּיף וַיִּקְצוּ מִזַּעְזוּעֵיךָ וְהִיִּית לְמִשְׁפּוֹת לָמוֹ:

104 (4x26)

8 כִּי אֲתָה שְׁלוֹת גּוֹזִים רַבִּים יִשְׁלֹף כָּל־יָתֵר עַמִּים

מִדְּמֵי אָדָם וַחֲמֵס־אֶרֶץ קָרְנָה וְכָל־יֹשְׁבֵי בָּהּ: פ

3. Woe to him who gets evil gain for his house: 26

9 הוֹי בִצְעַת בִּצְעַת רַע לְבֵיתוֹ

לְשׁוֹם בְּמָרוֹם קָנָו לְהַנְצִיל מִכַּף־רַע:

10 יַעֲצֹת בִּשְׁת לְבֵיתֶךָ קִצּוֹת־עַמִּים רַבִּים וְחוֹטֵא נִפְשֶׁךָ:

11 כִּי־אֲבֹן מִקִּיר תִּזְעַק וּכְפִיס מֵעֵץ יַעֲנֶנָּה: פ

4. Woe to him who builds a town with blood: 31

12 הוֹי בִּנְה עִיר בְּדַמַּיִם וְכוֹנֵן קָרְנָה בְּעוֹלָה:

13 הֲלוֹא הִנֵּה מֵאֵת יְהוָה צָבָאוֹת

וַיּוֹנְעוּ עַמִּים בְּדִי־אֵשׁ וּלְאֻמִּים בְּדִי־רִיק יַעֲפוּ:

14 כִּי תִמְלֵא הָאָרֶץ לְדַעַת אֶת־כְּבוֹד יְהוָה פַּמִּים וְכֶסֶף עַל־יָם: ס

5. Woe to him who makes his neighbours drunk: 41

15 הוֹי מִשְׁקָה רַעֲהוּ מִסַּבֵּחַ חֲמָתֶךָ וְאַף שִׁכַּר

לְמַעַן הַבִּישׁ עַל־מְעוֹרֵיהֶם:

16 שְׁבַעַת קָלוֹן מִכְּבוֹד שְׁתָּה גַם־אֲתָה וְהַעֲרַל

תִּסּוֹב עָלֶיךָ בּוֹס יִמִּין יְהוָה וְקִיקְלוֹן עַל־כְּבוֹדֶךָ:

17 כִּי חֲמֵס לְבַנּוֹן יִכֹּס וְשָׁד בְּהַמּוֹת יַחִיתֵן

מִדְּמֵי אָדָם וַחֲמֵס־אֶרֶץ קָרְנָה וְכָל־יֹשְׁבֵי בָּהּ: ס

6. What profit is an idol? 17

18 מִהַ־הוֹעִיל פֶּסֶל כִּי פִסְלוֹ יִצְרוּ מִסַּכָּה וּמִזֹּרֶה שִׁקָּר

כִּי בָטַח יִצְרֵר וְיִצְרוּ עָלָיו לַעֲשׂוֹת אֱלִילִים אֱלֹמִים: ס

7. Woe to the idolator! YHWH is in his temple: 25

19 הוֹי אֹמֵר לַעֲץ הַקִּיֵּצָה עוֹרֵי לְאֲבֹן דּוּמָם

הֲוֵא יוֹרֶה הַנֶּהֱ־הוּא תַפּוּשׁ זָהָב וְכֶסֶף וְכָל־רִיחַ אֵין בְּקַרְבּוֹ:

20 וַיְהִינָה בְּהִיכַל קִדְשׁוֹ תֵס מִפְּנֵיו כָּל־הָאֶרֶץ: פ

Habakkuk 3

Heading: 5

1 תַּפְלֵה לַחֲבַקּוּק הַנְּבִיא עַל שְׁגִינּוֹת:

Prayer 3: 153 words, including the three instances of

2 יְהוָה שְׁמַעֲתִי שְׁמַעֲדָה יִרְאוֹתֵי יְהוָה פְּעֻלָּה

סלה (vs. 3, 9, 13), which are integral within the prayer.

בְּקָרֵב שָׁנִים תִּיְהִי בְּקָרֵב שָׁנִים תוֹדִיעַ

בְּרִגְוֹ רַחֵם תִּזְכּוֹר:

- 3 אֲלוֹהַּ מִתִּימֵן יָבֹוא וְקָדוֹשׁ מִהַר־פָּאָרָן סָלָה
 כִּסֵּה שָׁמַיִם הוֹדוּ וַתְּהַלְלוּ מְלֵאכֵה הָאָרֶץ:
 4 וַנִּגַּה כְּאוֹר תְּהִלָּה קִרְנִים מִיָּדוֹ לֹ
 וְשֵׁם חֲבוּן עִזָּה: 5 לִפְנֵי יְיָ דָּבַר וַיֵּצֵא רֶשֶׁף לְרִגְלָיו:
 6 עָמַד וַיִּמְדַּד אֶרֶץ רָאָה וַיִּתֵּר גּוֹיִם
 וַיִּתְפָּצְצוּ הַרְרֵי־עַד שָׁחוּ וַבְּעוֹת עוֹלָם
 הִלִּיכוֹת עוֹלָם לֹ:
 7 תַּחַת אֲנֹן רְאִיתִי אֲהַלִּי כוֹשֵׁן יַרְגְּזוֹן יַרְיֵעוֹת אֶרֶץ מְדוּן: ס
 8 הַבְּנֵהרִים חָרָה יְהוָה אִם בְּנֵהרִים אֲפָה אִם־בַּיָּם עֲבַרְתָּהּ
 כִּי תִרְכַּב עַל־סוּסֶיךָ מִרְכַּבְתִּיךָ יִשׁוּעָה:
 9 עָרִיָה תַעֲוֹר קִשְׁתְּךָ שְׂבָעוֹת מִטּוֹת אָמַר סָלָה
 נִהְרוֹת תִּבְקַע־אֶרֶץ: 10 רְאוּךָ יַחִילוּ הַרִים
 זָרִם מִיָּם עָבַר נִתַּן תְּהוֹם קוֹלוֹ
 רוֹם יִדְהוּ נִשְׂאָ: 11 שָׁמַשׁ יָרַח עָמַד זָבָלָה
 לְאוֹר חֲצִיךָ יִהְלְכוּ לַנִּגַּה בִּרְקַב חֲנִיתְךָ:
 12 בְּזַעַם תִּצְעַד־אֶרֶץ בְּאֵף תִּדְוֹשׁ גּוֹיִם:
 13 יֵצֵאתָ לְיִשְׁעֵ עֲמֻךָ לְיִשְׁעֵ אֶת־עַם מִשִּׁיתְךָ. Read 'the people of your anointed one' – see BHS.
 מִחֲצֵתָ רֵאשׁ מִבֵּית רִשָׁע עֲרוֹת יִסוּד עַד־צִוָּאר סָלָה: פ
 14 נִקְבַּת בַּמַּטְיֹו רֵאשׁ פְּרִזִּי וַיִּסְעֵרוּ
 לְהַפִּיצֵנִי עַל־יְצֵאתָם כְּמוֹ־לֶאֱכַל עֵנִי בַמַּסְתָּר:
 15 דְּרַכְתָּ בַיָּם סוּסֶיךָ חֲמַר מִיָּם רַבִּי:
 16 שָׁמַעְתִּי וַתִּרְגַּז בְּטִנִּי לְקוֹל צִלְלוֹ שִׁפְתֵי
 יָבֹוא רָקַב בַּעֲצָמַי וַתַּחַתֵּי אֲרָגוֹ אֲשֶׁר
 אֲנוּחַ לַיּוֹם צָרָה לְעֵלוֹת לְעַם יַגְוֹדְנוּ:
 17 כִּי־תֵאָנֶה לֹא־תִפְרָח וְאֵין יִבּוּל בַּגִּפְנִים
 כַּחַשׁ מַעֲשֵׂה־זֵית וּשְׂדֵמוֹת לֹא־עֲשֵׂה אֲכָל
 גִּזְרַ מִמִּכְלָה צֹאן וְאֵין בְּקָר בְּרִפְתִּים:
 18 וְאֲנִי בִיהוּנָה אֶעֱלוֹנָה אֲגִילָה בְּאֱלֹהֵי יִשְׁעֵי:
 19 יְהוָה אֲדַנִּי חִילִי
 וַיִּשֶׁם רִגְלִי כְּאֵילוֹת וְעַל בְּמוֹתַי וַדְּרַכְנִי
 לְמַנְצָח בְּנִינּוֹתַי:

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