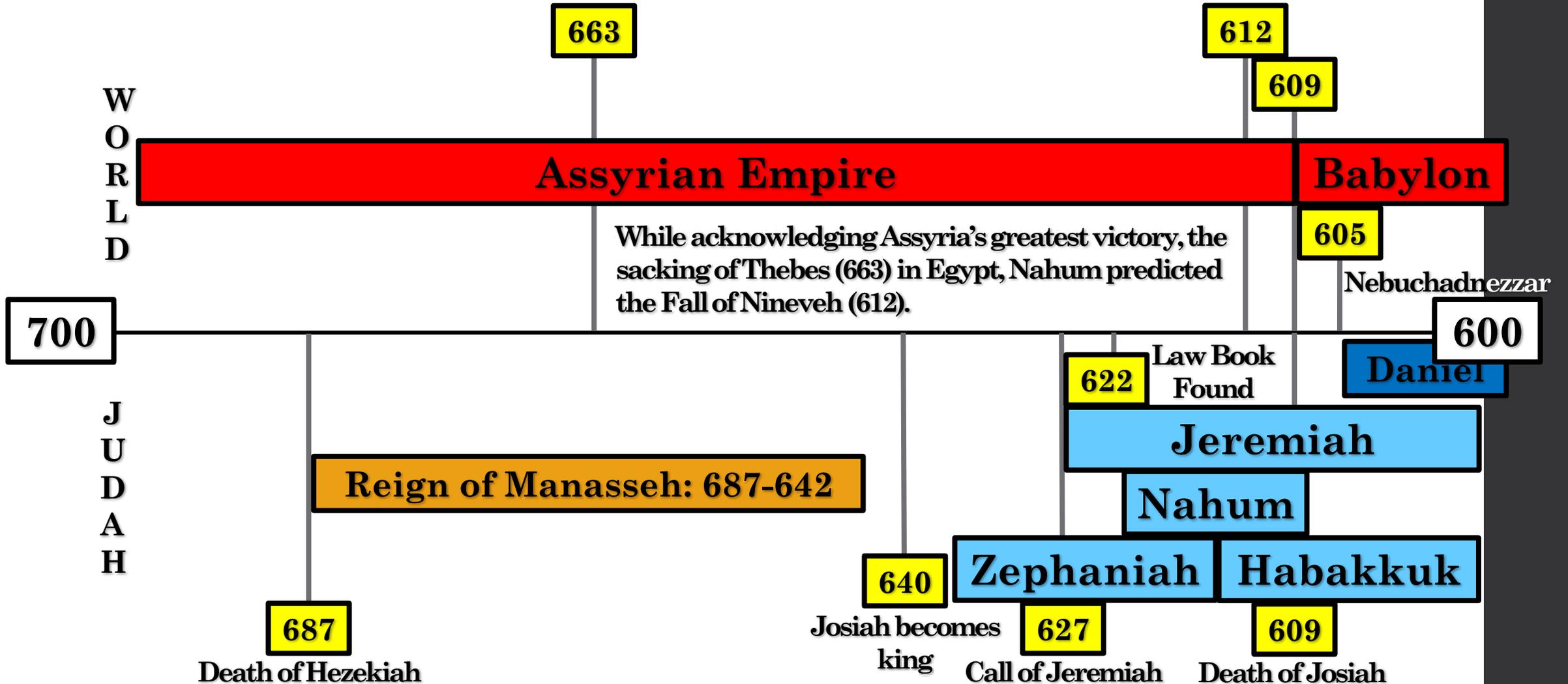


# Book of Habakkuk

Old Testament Workshop  
Morrison Heights Baptist Church  
April 5, 2020

# Historical Context



# Biographical Data

The Book of Habakkuk is 56 verses. It provides NO personal information about the prophet other than his name (compare to Obadiah and Malachi).

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No Information Available

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## Name

Habakkuk may mean “embraced” or “caressed” [Hebrew verb חִבַּק]. His parents so named him, perhaps hoping that he would “embrace” God and/or his fellowman.

Habakkuk could be the name of a garden plant (Assyrian noun *Hambakuku*).

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# Biographical Clues

## Ministry Time Period

After

625 BC Regional Dominance of the Chaldeans (1:5-11)

Before

586 BC NO reference to the Fall of Jerusalem OR Exile

## Personality Profile

### a. Professional

The first of three Old Testament men to be called a prophet in the opening verse of their prophetic book.  
SEE also Haggai and Zechariah.

### b. Philosopher OR Theologian

Habakkuk repeatedly questioned God.

# Biographical Clues

## Personality Profile

### c. Temple Prophet (3:1-19)

Such prophets mixed prophecy and music (1 Chr. 25:1-8).

Chapter three is a hymn.

1. *Shigionoth* (v. 1) is the name of a tune.

2. *Selah* (vv. 3, 9, 13) is a musical notation, likely meaning “pause” or “rest.”

Verse 19b specifies how to play chapter three during a worship service.



“For the choir director, on my stringed instruments.”

# Outline of Habakkuk

- 1:1** Title
- 1:2-4** Habakkuk complains to God.  
*Why haven't you judged the wickedness of your people?*
- 1:5-11** God answers Habakkuk.  
*The Babylonians will be my judgment.*
- 1:12-2:1** Habakkuk complains to God.  
*You'll judge the wickedness of your people with a more wicked people?*
- 2:2-20** God answers Habakkuk: Taunt Song (Five Woes).
- 3:1** Title
- 3:2-19a** Habakkuk confesses to God.  
Theophany: God appears; his presence affects nature (3:3-7, 10-11).
- 3:19b** Title

# Content of Habakkuk

The Book of Habakkuk is an on-going CONVERSATION between God and his prophet, NOT a conventional communication from God, via a prophet, to his people. We the readers are really an audience, NOT addressees.



## Famous Quotes OR Misquotes

1:5

*Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because I am doing something in your days—you would not believe if you were told.*

Misquoted by the IMB | Occasion: “Week of Prayer”

1:13

*Thine eyes are too pure to look at evil.*

Misquote: To explain why a dying Jesus quoted Psalm 22

# Content of Habakkuk

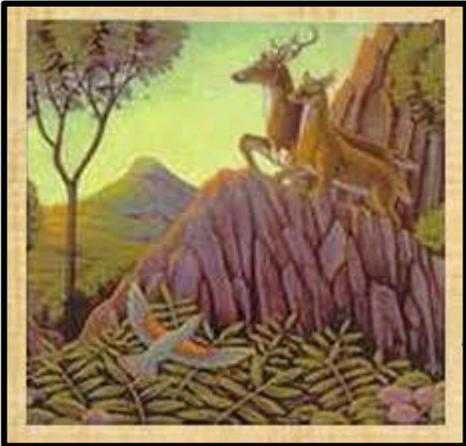
## Famous Quotes OR Misquotes

- 1:13     If God cannot see sin, then how does He know who has sinned? How did Jesus survive on sinful earth without a blindfold?  
“Thine eyes are too pure TO APPROVE evil.” [NASB]
- 2:4b     *“The righteous shall live by his faith.”*  
SEE Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38.
- 2:14     *“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”*  
SEE Isaiah 11:9b.
- 2:20     *“But the Lord is in his holy temple, let all the earth be silent before Him.”*

# Content of Habakkuk

## Famous Quotes OR Misquotes

3:17-19



*“Though the fig tree should not blossom, and there be no fruit on the vines, though the yield of the olive should fail, and the fields produce no food, though the flock should be cut off from the fold, and there be no cattle in the stalls, yet I will exult in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength, and he has made my feet like hinds’ feet, and makes me walk on my high places.”*

**Old Testament Faith at Its Zenith**

**SEE also Job 1:21; 2:10; 42:1-6; Daniel 3:16-18.**

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