

The Prophets & Kings

From Rehoboam To Zedekiah

Book 1

A Daily Devotional Study Guide

Week 48

“Worse Before Better”

Study: Habakkuk 1:1-11

Reading: John 9:1-7, Daniel 9:1-21

Memory: Isaiah 40:13

Whenver I decide to deep clean my garage, I know that things are going to be much messier before they get better. I normally take all the stuff out of my garage and put it in the driveway, with things scattered all over. After I wash the garage floor, I start to carefully put everything back in the proper place, getting rid of things I don't need and finding places for new items that will cause the garage to be neater and better.

Today, we are going to see how God was going to allow things to get much worse in Judah before it was going to get better. We will see that when we pray, God's answer may be to make things harder before they get easier.

What Does the Bible Say?

Nothing is known about the prophet Habakkuk other than what is written here in this minor prophetic book. From all evidence given in the book it was written somewhere in the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim. The book began with Habakkuk crying out to the Lord for help, but help was not coming. In the current situation, all Habakkuk saw was the violence and the wickedness that was taking place among the people. Though there were laws in the land, they were not being enforced and those who sought after wickedness greatly outnumbered those who sought after righteousness. Habakkuk desired God to bring about righteousness once again in the land because he hated seeing the evil that was taking place (vs 1-4).

Though Habakkuk only saw the wickedness, God told him to look around and be amazed at the work He was doing. God was starting things that Habakkuk would not believe even if someone told him. God was choosing to raise up the Babylonian people who were known for their cruelty and violence. They were marching through much of the known world and easily conquering foreign lands. This nation was dreaded because they did not have any morals, nor did they fear any of

their opponents. Their calvary was swift, powerful and fast, devouring anyone who stood in their way (vs 5-8).

The Babylonians attacked without mercy and would gather the captives and do whatever they wanted with them. They thought little of their opposing kings and didn't think twice about attacking cities with great walls. They had developed techniques in warfare that would allow them to conquer cities in a short period of time. They would leave these cities in shambles, capturing or killing the residents, and giving no regard to the future of the city as they moved forward to conquer their next target. They didn't care about any nation's gods nor did they live in guilt for the destruction that they caused. They were their own gods and viewed themselves as powerful as any god in the world (vs 9-11).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize that sometimes the answers to your prayers mean that things will get worse? I find it very interesting that Habakkuk was praying to God and complaining about how bad things were when God responded by explaining how He was at work. Instead of giving Habakkuk news of repentance and restoration, God declared that He was going to do an amazing thing, but that amazing thing was to bring a wicked army in and destroy the people. This is a great reminder for you to remember that God's plan is way bigger than your personal desires. It is not wrong to pray when you see things going wrong, but you have to remember that sometimes God answers in a way that is completely different than what you might expect or want. Remember that God is in control and you have to trust that His way is best.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for answering your prayer even if it means that things may get worse.*
- * *Praise God because He has sovereign control of this world.*

Thought for the day

How is Habakkuk described (vs 1)?

What did Habakkuk ask (vs 2)?

How does this express frustration (vs 2)?

Have you ever felt like Habakkuk? Explain.

What did Habakkuk want to know (vs 3)?

What was Habakkuk continually seeing in the world around him (vs 3)?

What was the law not doing (vs 4)?

How is wickedness described (vs 4)?

How did God answer Habakkuk (vs 5)?

What did God say He was doing (vs 5)?

Who was God raising up (vs 6)?

What would this army do (vs 6)?

How is this army described (vs 7)?

What was said about the Babylonian calvary (vs 8)?

How did the Babylonians treat others (vs 9)?

Why didn't they fear other kings (vs 10)?

Why didn't they let fortresses stop them (vs 10)?

Why did these men not feel guilt for their actions (vs 10)?

How do you see the same thing happen today when people think of themselves as gods?

“Never Satisfied”

Study: Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

Reading: Psalm 5:1-12, Romans 3:1-18

Memory: Isaiah 40:13

I have built an ice rink at my house for many, many years and have learned a great deal of lessons along the way. I have recently joined a facebook group of other people who build their own ice rinks and the group is full of people attempting it for their first time. Many of these people will often have questions about what to do when it snows while their rink is still freezing. My advice to them is to leave it alone and choose to not think about it until it fully freezes. Over the years, I have wasted countless hours trying to fight nature and creating many more problems for myself. My advice to others is to fill the liner with water and then sit back and let nature do its thing.

Today, we are going to see how God wants us to relax and watch Him do His thing. This is not always easy because we as people often want to do something to fix things, but many times, God simply wants us to wait on Him and trust Him.

What Does the Bible Say?

Habakkuk wasn't thrilled with God's answer to his first prayer and did not like the thought of the nation of Israel being destroyed. He acknowledged that they must face judgement for their sin, but questioned God's plan to completely destroy them. He knew that God was holy and righteous in all He did. Habakkuk declared that God was the Rock who had established them as a nation and they had fallen short of His desires and plans for them. Habakkuk stated that God was too pure to allow evil to continue unpunished and that God could not stand by silently and watch His people live in wickedness (vs 12-13).

Though Habakkuk knew that they deserved punishment from God, the thought of the Babylonian judgement and conquest greatly disturbed him. He felt like God was treating them like fish of the sea who existed only to be caught and strung up while the fishermen celebrated their great victory. Like fisherman, the Babylonians would rejoice in their nets and praise their gods for the great catch they made and the riches that

resulted. At the expense of the Israelites, the Babylonians would experience great wealth and rejoicing. This did not seem right to Habakkuk (vs 14-17).

Habakkuk felt like he had a legitimate complaint before God and he compared himself to a city watchmen as he waited for an answer from God (vs 1).

God answered by telling Habakkuk to write down a vision that he was about to receive so that everyone else would be able to read about the vision that was given. This vision revealed something that would happen at a future time, and for some, it would seem like God was delaying too long. In the right time and the right way, God would carry out this vision (vs 2-3).

God then addressed those who were full of pride. They trusted in themselves and lived lives that were not right before God. The righteous live differently. They live with a faith and trust in God even though at times they can't see or understand what God is doing. Those who chose wealth and selfish gain over faith and righteousness would never find rest in this life or in the life to come. The things of this world will never fully satisfy. No matter how many people they take advantage of or how much money they have, they will never be full. They will always want more (vs 4-5).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you sometimes feel that God is unfair in the way He deals with people? You are not alone. There are many times where God does not make sense. Habakkuk expressed that in his complaints to God, but God responded to him by reminding him how important it was to live by faith. It is easy to become frustrated or even upset at God when all you can see is the present situation that doesn't seem to be working out according to your plans. Yet, God wants you to live by faith and trust that He is working on behalf of His children. This will not always be easy, but those who seek after God will find rest and peace, while those who live for themselves will never be satisfied. Choose to trust in God no matter what circumstances are happening around you today.

Thought for the day

What did Habakkuk declare about God (vs 12)?

What do you think he meant when he said “We shall not die” (vs 12 - ESV)?

****He was questioning that plan of God to wipe out the nation of Israel with the Babylonian army.*

What did God ordain (vs 12)?

What did Habakkuk state about God (vs 13)?

What question did he ask (vs 13)?

What did Habakkuk say he felt like Israel had become (vs 14)?

How did he describe the coming Babylonian invasion (vs 15)?

What didn't make sense to Habakkuk (vs 16-17)?

Do you think Habakkuk had a legitimate complaint about God's plan? Explain.

What did Habakkuk say he would do (vs 1)? Why?

What did God tell Habakkuk to do with the vision he was about to receive (vs 2)? Why?

What did God say about this vision (vs 3)?

Why does the Bible often talk about the importance of waiting (vs 3)?

How should the righteous live (vs 4)?

How is this the opposite of the ways of the world?

What did God say hurt men rather than helped them (vs 5)?

“*The Tables Will Turn*”

Study: Habakkuk 2:6-20

Reading: Psalm 2:1-12, Romans 8:26-39

Memory: Isaiah 40:13

I have lived in small towns for my entire adult life. They are unique in many ways compared to large towns. One of the ways I have observed this is in the realm of business. Businesses who cut corners and take advantage of customers have a much better chance of surviving in large towns than in small towns. This is because large town businesses don't need repeat customers to survive. In small towns, if a business gains a negative reputation, they soon run out of customers and fold, but if they treat their customers well, they gain a loyal following that often lasts for generations.

Today, we are going to see that the Babylonians treated the nations they conquered with great disrespect and the way they treated others would come back to harm them.

What Does the Bible Say?

One of the complaints Habakkuk had towards God was concerning the success of the Babylonian nation. He didn't like the fact that the Babylonians were wicked and would experience great success. God was going to use them to bring judgement on Judah. As God answered Habakkuk, He wanted Habakkuk to know that the Chaldeans (Babylonians) wouldn't get away with their evil actions for long. Those who had been captured by the Babylonians would soon be able to taunt and mock their captors. The Babylonians had become rich by taking advantage of others, but their evil actions would not allow them to continue on for long. They would be destroyed in sudden fashion and those who they had captured would turn on them causing them to be the helpless ones. The once plundered nations would turn around and plunder the Babylonians as a punishment for all the evil they enacted while conquering (vs 6-8).

Great sorrow was waiting for those who were living it up in their big houses. These houses were bought with money gained through dishonesty. They trusted in their wealth to keep them safe and to get them whatever they wanted, but their dishonest ways had caused many

others to hate and despise them. The very existence of their houses would speak out against them and declare them guilty, knowing that the only way they could afford such lush places was by taking advantage of others (vs 9-11).

Judgement was pronounced on those who built their towns by killing others and forcing others to do what they desired. Captives became slaves who worked hard day in and day out with nothing to show for it since all of their profits went to their masters. This wealth could not deliver the masters from the judgement of God when He chose to act. The actions of God were compared to the water that filled the sea. His actions would fill the earth and bring great glory to Himself and the world would see that the prophets were right in pronouncing that the great power of God was stronger than the fiercest army on earth (vs 12-14).

Another proclamation of destruction was given towards the Babylonians because they had stripped the wealth of the nations all around them. They had become “drunk” on the blood of their enemies and their actions would bring about great shame. The type of violence they enacted when conquering foreign nations would come back and work against them (vs 15-17).

They would not be able to trust in their idols because those were simply objects made by the hands of men. These idols had no power to teach them the way to go nor deliver them from the problems ahead. As much as they thought they were in control, God had never left His throne. When He spoke and chose to act, there was nothing on earth that would have the ability to stop Him (vs 18-20).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you sometimes get discouraged when it appears that evil is winning? Do you wonder why it seems that those who seek after God experience great difficulty while those who live for themselves seem to have it all? Habakkuk didn't like the idea that the Babylonians would see great success and the people of Judah would experience great defeat. Yet, God reminded him that He was still on the throne. Though it seemed like evil was winning, they would not come out on the top in the end. They would have success for over 70 years, but their reign would come to an abrupt end. Passages like this remind you that those who do evil will not succeed. Some evil men on earth may succeed their whole lives, and others may succeed for a short time, but neither will succeed in eternity. True success isn't determined by what happens in this life, but is guaranteed in the life to come by those who seek after God.

Who was going to taunt and mock the Babylonians (vs 6)?

What would the Babylonians do (vs 6)?

What were those who they oppressed going to do (vs 7)?

How did the Babylonians treat others (vs 8)?

What were other nations going to do to them (vs 8)?

What did the Babylonians think they were doing (vs 9)?

What were they actually doing (vs 10)?

What do you think verse 11 meant?

How did the Babylonians build their towns (vs 12)?

How did they treat the nations they conquered (vs 13)?

What was the earth going to be filled with (vs 14)? What do you think this meant?

What did God compare the actions of the Babylonians to (vs 15)?

How did they fill other nations with shame (vs 16)?

What will God do as a result (vs 16)?

What was going to overwhelm them (vs 17)? What was meant by this?

What question was asked in verse 18?

What point was being made?

What can't an idol do (vs 19)?

How is God greater than idols (vs 20)?

“Do It Again”

Study: Habakkuk 3:1-11

Reading: Isaiah 63:7-19

Memory: Isaiah 40:13

Every December, I find myself getting anxious to get my outdoor ice rink ready for skating. History tells me that we normally can't have our first skate until sometime in early January, but that doesn't stop me from hoping it will be done earlier. When I start to get frustrated about how long it is taking to freeze, I have to remind myself of what has happened in the previous years. When I remind myself of this, it calms some of my anxiousness and reminds me to have the patience to wait, knowing that it will eventually be ready.

Today, we are going to see how looking back at the past can help us in the present and the future.

What Does the Bible Say?

According to the first verse of chapter three, this is a prayer or Habakkuk. The exact meaning of the word Shigionoth is uncertain, but it was most likely some type of musical notation and the prayer was meant to be sung (vs 1).

The prayer begins with praise towards God as Habakkuk declared how he had hearts the report the past for the nation of Israel. The reports that he had heard caused him to fear God and believe the same God could still show His mighty hand to Israel. Habakkuk called on God to once again reveal His power to the people. He realized that this power would display itself in wrath towards the sin of His people, but He also pled for mercy to accompany that wrath (vs 2).

Verse three mentions Teman and Mount Paran, both of which are located in the Sinai peninsula near the area where the Israelites traveled while they were making their way to the Promise Land. This was a time period where God first fully showed His power to the Israelite people as He led them out of Egypt. His might was displayed to all the earth during that time. The Israelites saw His greatness first hand as He revealed Himself to them in many different ways. He often veiled His great power because the people was so afraid of His overwhelming presence

(vs 3-4).

God delivered them out of Egypt through a series of plagues and revealed His great power over all creation. At His presence the earth shook and the landscape was transformed through His power. The people of Cush (around Egypt) and Midian (east of the Promise Land) greatly feared the God of Israel as they heard of and saw His great power. The great and mighty things God did to the creation at that time were not because He was angry at creation, rather He did things like part the sea and cause water to flow from mountains in order to deliver His people and provide for their needs. Verse 9 pictures God as an archer sending his arrows to the earth to divide it and part the rivers for His children to cross. All creation had to submit to the great plan of God as He was taking care of His children. Whether it was causing the sun to stand still or the earth to open up and swallow the enemies of God, all creation was subject to the mighty hand of God (vs 5-11).

How Does this Apply to Me?

How do you act and respond to the wickedness and evil that takes place all around you. Do you live in fear, panic and worry? One of the great ways to help you deal with uncertainty of the present or the future is to remind yourself of how God worked in the past. The Bible is full of examples of how God continually worked for His people by doing amazing and miraculous things. The same God who did all those things for the people of Israel is the same God that is working on your behalf today. As Habakkuk reminded himself and others around him of the power of God, he was also encouraging himself to trust in God and boldly face the difficult times which were ahead. The same God who has worked in the past still has the power to work today.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for His working in the past.*
- * *Ask God to help you trust Him to work today.*
- * *Praise God because He never loses any of His power.*

Thought for the day

Why do you think that some prayers were meant to be sung (vs 1)?

Do you have a song that you have used as a prayer from your heart? Explain.

What report had Habakkuk heard (vs 2)?

What did Habakkuk want God to do again (vs 2)?

Why do you think he asked God to remember mercy when performing His wrath (vs 2)?

Why were Teman and Paran mentioned in verse 3?

How did God show His splendor to the children of Israel (vs 3)?

What instance do you think Habakkuk was referring to in verse 4?

In what ways did God bring pestilence and plague (vs 5)?

What did God do to the earth (vs 6)? What do you think this meant?

What does verse 6 reveal about God's power over creation?

What does it mean that God's ways are "everlasting" (vs 6)?

What did the power of God do to the foreign nations (vs 7)?

What question was asked in verse 8?

Why do you think this was asked?

What were the actions of God compared to (vs 9)?

What are instances where God split the rivers and seas (vs 9)?

What did the creation do at the voice of God (vs 10)?

What did God have the power to do (vs 11)?

"My Joy In Christ"

Study: Habakkuk 3:12-19

Reading: Jobe 13:1-28

Memory: Isaiah 40:13

There are some events that are etched in my mind that I don't think I will ever forget. One of those was the night of September 11, 2001, when local churches gathered together for a special prayer meeting after the terrible events of the day. I remember that there was great uncertainty about what would happen next in the world around us because of the shock of what had taken place. As we gathered together to pray, the pastor read the end of Habakkuk 3, a portion of Scripture that I didn't remember hearing before. As he read those verses, it provided great comfort and help to all of us as we realized that no matter what may happen in the weeks or months ahead, we could trust in God to be there for us each step of the way.

What Does the Bible Say?

Verse 12 continues recounting what God had done for Israel in the past. He marched through His enemies crushing anyone who attempted to stand in His way. He beat His opponents down like one would beat wheat on the threshing floor. As special operation soldiers would be sent out to deliver captives from the enemies, God went out and delivered His people by crushing their wicked captors and stripping them of all they had. The enemies of Israel were often destroyed by their own weapons as they turned on one another. These enemies thought the nation of Israel would be easy prey, but many times they never even fought the Israelites because they were destroyed by each other or supernatural events in nature. Like a mighty calvary would divide the armies of their enemies, God divided the sea and held back the waters allowing a clear path for His people to walk on (vs 12-15).

Though God had done all this for Israel in the past, Habakkuk knew that God was not going to do the same thing now. God had the power and Habakkuk knew God could do these great things again, but he also understood that there was going to be a punishment from God. He knew the power that God had displayed against the enemies of Israel, and now

he had to wait for that same power to be displayed against Israel. The prospect of God's judgment terrified Habakkuk as he had to quietly wait for the coming day knowing that there was nothing he could do to stop it (vs 16).

The coming invasion by the Babylonians was going to be a horrific event for Judah and the land of Israel. Many of their crops would be destroyed and those who took care of them would be killed. Their animals would be slaughtered and eaten by the Babylonians and what was left would be taken back with them to their land. The land of Judah would be completely devastated (vs 17).

Though all this was going to take place, Habakkuk declared that he was going to still rejoice in the Lord and find joy in the God who would bring salvation. He was going to look to God for strength to battle through the difficult times. He knew that God could make him like the deer who had the ability to climb on narrow cliffs without stumbling. He was going to trust God to be his source of strength, energy and safety though all he had known was going to be taken away (vs 18-19).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you find your hope and joy in your possessions and circumstances or do you find your strength in God? This is a tough question to answer when you have many things and when circumstances generally go your way. Think about times where things haven't gone your way. How did you respond? Did you live in anger and frustration? Did you affect the attitudes of others around you in a negative or positive way? When things go bad for you, you can take that negativity out on others or you can praise God through the trials. This not only helps you, but it encourages others. Habakkuk settled in his mind that he was going to praise God and find his hope in God, even if everything he had was taken away.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Thank God for being there to help you through the difficult times.
- * Ask God to help you to trust Him and not in the things of this world.
- * Praise God because He is the all-powerful God.

Thought for the day

What Biblical events come to your mind when you think of God furiously marching through the earth (vs 12)?

What does the term "threshed" or "trampled" refer to (vs 13)?

What did God do for His people (vs 13)?

How did the wicked fare against God (vs 13)?

What do you think the last phrase of verse 13 means?

What did God cause to happen to the warriors who fought against Him (vs 14)?

What type of attitude did the opponents of Israel have when attacking them (vs 14)?

****The Israelites were not known as trained warriors nor did they have the latest and best in war equipment. Many opposing armies thought that conquering Israel would be an easy task.*

What was verse 15 a picture of?

How did Habakkuk feel knowing what was going to take place (vs 16)?

What did he choose to do (vs 16)?

How is it hard to wait when you know something bad is about to happen and you can't change it?

What condition was Israel going to be in after the Babylonian invasion (vs 17)?

What was Habakkuk going to choose to do (vs 18)?

Why is this a difficult attitude to have?

What did Habakkuk say about God (vs 19)?

“The Missed It”

Study: Daniel 1:1-2, Jeremiah 25:1-14

Reading: Psalm 119:105-112, John 10:22-30

Memory: Isaiah 40:13

When I was on my way to play in my adult hockey league, my friend who I was riding with asked me, “Did you see that?” Sadly, I was looking down at my phone at the time and by the time I looked up, nothing was there. He described to me how he saw a ball of light flash through the sky and it was an amazing sight. The next morning, he sent me a news article describing how many other people had seen the same thing. Though I wasn’t purposely ignoring looking in front of me, I was so engrossed in what I was doing on my phone that I missed out on the amazing sight.

Today, we are going to see how we can become so engrossed in the world around us that we miss out on what God is trying to tell us. We will be reminded of the importance of paying attention to His Word.

What Does the Bible Say?

Habakkuk and Jeremiah had tried to warn the people of the judgment that was at their doorstep, but they failed to listen. As a result, God began to fulfill His prophecy through Nebuchadnezzar as he invaded Judah and besieged Jerusalem. God gave the Babylonians victory over Jerusalem and they took several valuable treasures from the city which included treasures from the temple. This was in 605 B.C. and it was during this initial invasion that Nebuchadnezzar also took many of the children of Judah as captives back to Babylon with him. Though Jerusalem would have faced some destruction at this time, he left much of Jerusalem intact and made Judah a vassal state which would pay tribute to the Babylonians (Dan 1:1-2).

Daniel stated that this first invasion was in the third year of Jehoiakim and Jeremiah stated that his prophecy was given in the fourth year of Jehoiakim. Jeremiah gave this message to the people of Judah after the initial invasion of Nebuchadnezzar. Jeremiah stated that he had been declaring God’s message to them persistently for 23 years, yet they refused to listen. He was not alone in delivering this message because

God had called many other prophets to do the same (vs 1-4).

The message of the prophets was clear and simple. They challenged the people of Judah to turn from their evil deeds, and if they did, God would bless them and allow them to live in the land. They were not to go after foreign gods which provoked the anger of the Lord. This message was simple and clear, yet it was not heeded and their actions did provoke the anger of the Lord (vs 5-7).

The disobedience of the people had brought about the initial destruction by Nebuchadnezzar, but he wasn’t finished with Judah. There was more destruction on its way and the nation of Judah would face destruction like they had never seen before. This would cause much of the joy and gladness of the land to leave as there would be few in the land to perform the daily tasks needed to survive. The land would lie in ruins for 70 years until God would bring about punishment to the Babylonians for their wicked deeds. The land of the Babylonians would then be conquered and left desolate just as Jerusalem would be. All of this had been set in motion and the people of Judah could see that what Jeremiah had been predicting was coming true (vs 8-14).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize that God will keep His word? The people of Judah had chosen not to believe what God had said through the prophets, but that didn’t stop God from carrying out His word. They were seeing all the words of the prophets being fulfilled and yet they still refused to believe what God had told them. Why? They were so caught up in their daily actions and the wickedness of the world around them that they ignored the fact that their lives would soon be changed forever. Many would not even be around to rejoice and celebrate weddings and there would be few people left in the land to do the daily tasks of providing food. God’s Word was coming true right before their eyes and they refused to see it. You can do the same thing if you are not careful and choose to ignore what God wants because you are so engrossed in what you want.

Thought for the day

When did Nebuchadnezzar invade Jerusalem (Dan 1:1)?

What did God give Nebuchadnezzar the power to do (Dan 1:2)?

Jeremiah 25

When did this message come to Jeremiah (vs 1)?

Who was this message directed towards (vs 2)?

How long had Jeremiah been prophesying at this point (vs 3)?

What did Jeremiah say about the message he had been delivering (vs 3)?

What had the people not done (vs 4)?

What were the people told to do (vs 5)?

What were they promised if they obeyed God (vs 5)?

What were the people not to do (vs 6)?

What did the people fail to do (vs 7)?

Why did God say He was bringing punishment (vs 8)?

Who was God going to send (vs 9)?

What was he going to do (vs 9)?

What would not take place in Israel (vs 10)?

What was going to happen to the whole land (vs 11)?

How long would the Babylonians rule (vs 12)?

Why was God going to punish them (vs 12-13)?

What was going to happen to the Babylonians (vs 14)?

Memory Verses

Isaiah 40:1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God? 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. The LORD has spoken!" 6 A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. 9 Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" 10 Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young. 12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? 13 Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD, or what man shows him his counsel?"