

Habakkuk 1:1 -2 (NLT) – “This is the message (NKJV burden) that the prophet Habakkuk received from the Lord in a Vision. How long, O Lord, must I call for help? But you do not listen!” Here is what burdened Habakkuk: “Wherever I look, I see destruction and violence. I am surrounded by people who love to argue and fight. The law has become paralyzed and useless, and there is no justice given in the courts. The wicked far outnumber the righteous, and justice is perverted with bribes and trickery” (1:3-4). Habakkuk’s vision occurred in 606 BC just prior to the Babylonian invasion of Judah. The Babylonian army was God’s instrument of judgment on Judah’s sins. Habakkuk probably prophesied during the reign of Jehoiakim who was described by Jeremiah as a shedder of innocent blood, and a lover of violence. Judah was already under judgment, and they refused to believe it. By the time the Babylonians were through with them they would never forget it. Read again Habakkuk’s description of Judah, then ask yourself, “Did I read this in the Bible or hear it on yesterday’s news?” Revival is needed, because the United States is already under judgment. We just don’t know it, because we haven’t been destroyed (yet). In the Old Testament, God judged by floods, fires, and famines; by pestilences and plagues; by revolutions, and rebellions; and by weather and wars. God’s judgments usually don’t involve destruction until everything else fails. Sometimes, however, God withholds judgment when people are willing to repent. Nineveh repented at the preaching of Jonah, and God spared the entire population of about 600,000. That is what we need in the United States. It is a matter of time before the nations of the world rebel against God. That’s scary, but true. “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God” (Psm. 9:17). Has America forgotten God? At the very least America is forgetting God. When America finally forgets God, He will politely remove His hand of protection and let her go her way. If you want to know what that looks like, read Romans 1:18-32 and see what happened to nations who “did not like to retain God in their knowledge...” The only hope for the United States is a revival of the church. The only way to revive the church is through prayer and repentance. Prophecies of judgments were burdens on the prophets. They discharged their burdens by warning God’s people to repent. When what we see becomes a burden, it’s time to pray. If we aren’t burdened, we need to pray for one. Our circumstances are much like Habakkuk’s. Let’s take the burden and pray until God sends revival. We are God’s people. If we do nothing about what we see, how can we expect anyone else to. A burden means nothing until we pray. HA