

Habakkuk Introduction

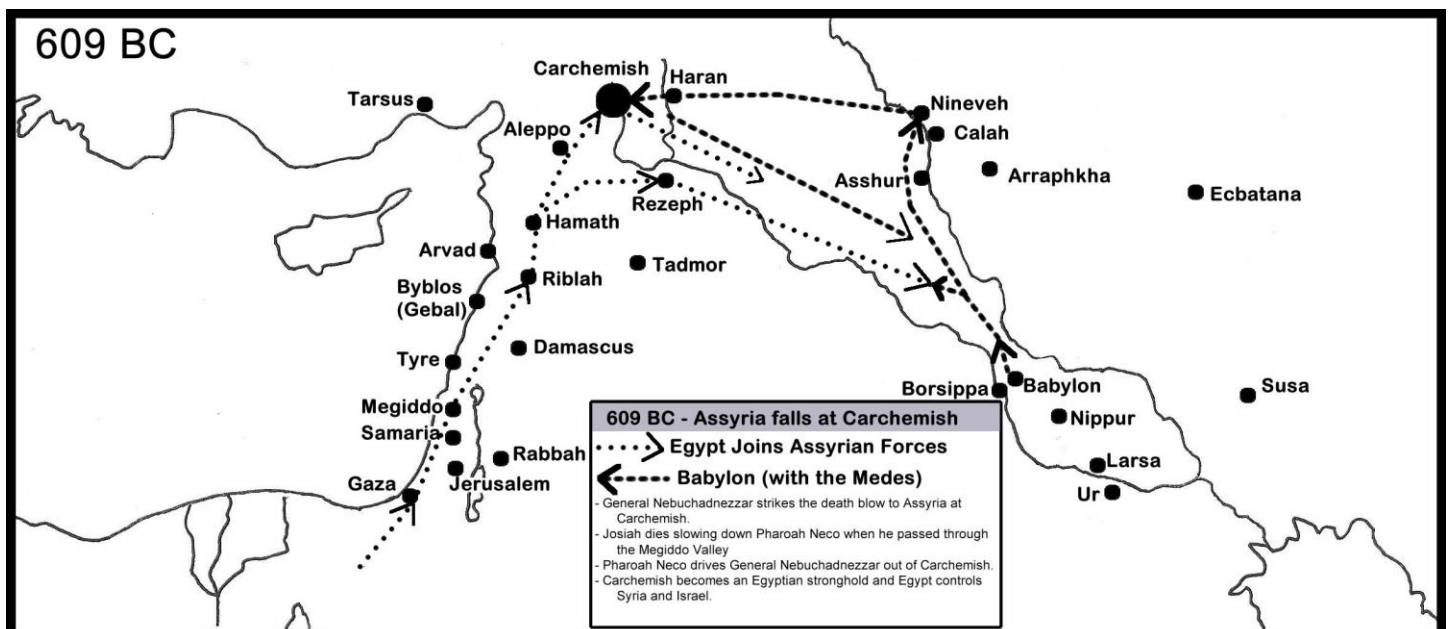
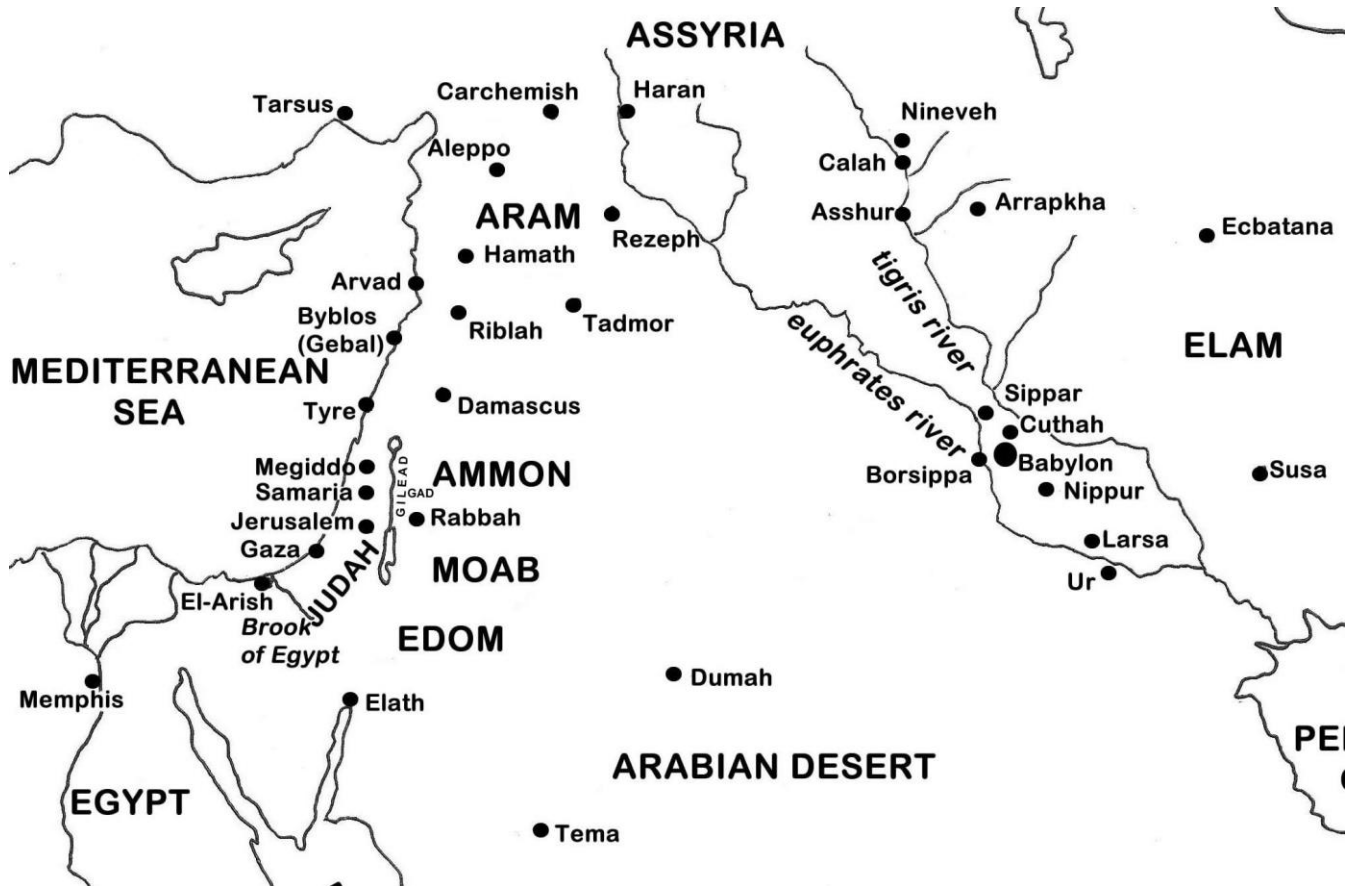
Egypt										
Babylon	703 BC - Marduk-apla-iddina rebels against Assyria and takes Babylon. 702 - Babylon captured by Sennacherib 701 - Sennacherib moves into Judah ASSYRIA RULES BABYLON									
Syria	734 - Rebels against Tiglath-Pileser 732 - Tiglath-Pileser takes Damascus Rezin (754-732)									
Assyria	Adad-nirari III (811-783) - Defeated Aram - Subjugated Damascus Shalmaneser IV (783-773) - 1st weak king leading to Assyria's decline Ashur-Dan III (773-755) - 2nd weak king of decline - 763 BC, solar eclipse Ashur-nirari V (755-745) - 3rd weak king of decline Tiglath-Pileser III (745-727) - Defeated Israel 722 BC Shalmaneser V (727-722) - Defeated Israel 722 BC Sargon II (722-705) - Defeated Israel 722 BC Sennacherib (705-681) - Invaded Judah - Defeated Lachish 701 BC - Threatened Hezekiah Esarhaddon (681-669) Ashurbanipal (669-631, or 627) Ashur-etil-ilani (631-627?) Sin-shar-ishkun (627-612) - Nineveh falls									
Israel	Jehu (841-814) Jehoash (798-782) Jehoahaz (814-798) Jeroboam II (753-753) Zechariah (753) Shallum (752) Menahem (752-742) Pekah (740-732) Pekahiah (742-740) Hoshea (731-721)									
Judah	Joash (835-796) Amaziah (796-787) Uzziah (792-740) Jotham (780-735) Ahaz (735-715) Hezekiah (715-686) Manasseh (697-642) Amon (642-640) Josiah (640-609)									
PROPHET	AMOS 760-754 JONAH 759 MICAH 750-686 ISAIAH 740-681 HOSEA 740 NAHUM 663-654 ZEPHANIAH 617 JEREMIAH 627-580 HABAKKUK 612-609									

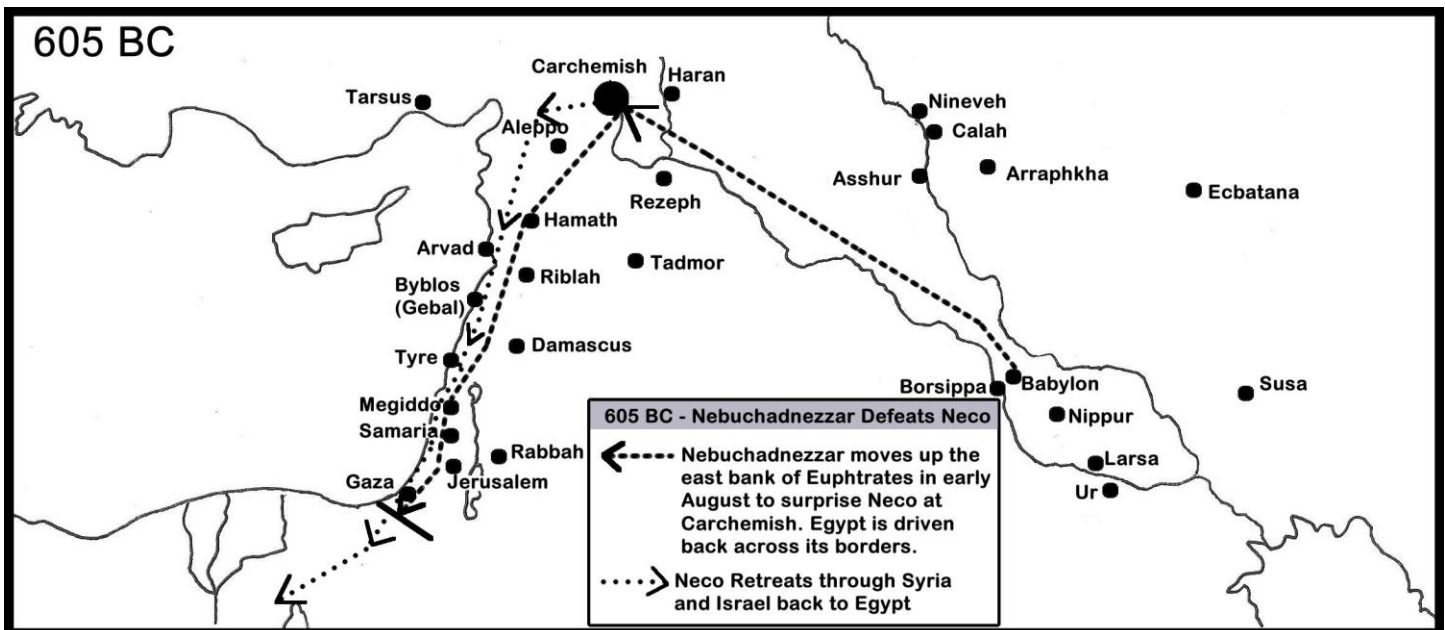
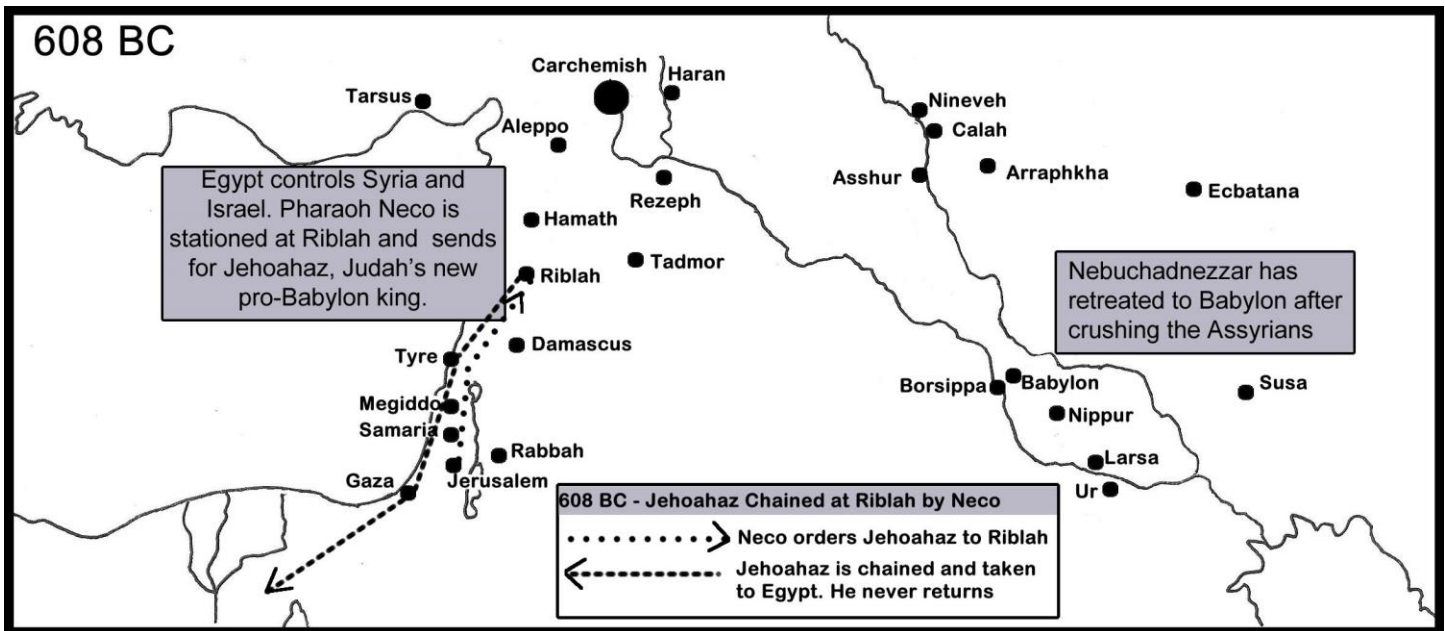
- The first verse calls this message a “burden” from the Hebrew word which literally means “burden” and refers to something that must be borne. The book is a message of judgment that Habakkuk must proclaim and then live through.
- We know nothing of the man Habakkuk other than he is a prophet and he proclaimed the Word of God in a message to the people that he “saw”. The word “saw” stresses the revelation character of the vision as it was communicated to him by the Holy Spirit more than the inner impression of the Word of God.
- The theme of the book is to demonstrate that a mature faith will trust God as he continues to move through history towards the establishment of righteousness in the earth.
- Habakkuk himself seems to grow in his faith and in his understanding of the Lord as he himself receives and processes the burden of this message.
 - The reader can see Habakkuk going to the Lord for help, but this help comes in the form of information/insight/instruction rather than in the form of deliverance.
 - Habakkuk then applies this new insight to manifest a stronger faith.
 - The Lord strengthens Habakkuk instead of delivering him.

		Form	
Chapter One	1:-2:5	Dialogue	Between Habakkuk and God
Chapter Two	2:6-20	Five Woes	The nations taunt the fall of Babylon; End with God's universal kingdom
Chapter Three		Psalm	Includes musical directions

- Habakkuk wrote between 626-586 BC during Judah's decline:
 - 627 BC Ashurbanipal dies and Assyria is retreating from its expanded frontier and the land of Syria/Northern Israel.
 - 632 BC Josiah begins reform and expansion west and north

- c. 630 BC Egypt is experiencing freedom from the retreat of Assyrian imperialism and by 609 BC Egypt has established a stronghold garrison at Carchemish where Pharaoh Necho II goes after killing Josiah in Megiddo.
- d. 626 BC Nabopolassar (Nebuchadnezzar's father) has united the Chaldean tribes (Babylon, Elam, Arabia) to begin moving into Assyrian territory. Nabopolassar will crush Nineveh in 612 BC. Babylonian General Nebuchadnezzar will defeat Egypt and the final form of Assyrian government at Carchemish in 605 BC





6. Chapter 1:5-11 must be dated before 605 BC when Babylon defeats the new power of Egypt in former Assyrian territory in Syria. This vision may even be before the fall of Nineveh at the hands of the Babylonians in 612 BC.
7. Chapter 1:12-17 and 2:6-20 may come from the time immediately after 612 as Babylon rose quickly to power over Assyria and rapidly pursued the fleeing Assyrian government from to Carchemish:
 - a. Arrapha in 615 BC
 - b. Assur in 614 BC
 - c. Nineveh in 612 BC
 - d. Harran in 610 BC (when all recorded Assyrian records stop) and fell in 609 BC.

8. Egypt controls Carchemish in 609 BC, but Nebuchadnezzar returns to defeat Pharaoh Necho II at Carchemish in 605 BC

Basic Dates and Historical Setting

626-605 BC Judah remains stable during Nabopolassar's rule in Babylon

612 Nineveh falls and power base begins to shift. Judah becomes unstable

610 Babylon takes Haran

(610-595 Pharaoh Neco rules Egypt)

609 Josiah killed in Megiddo Valley

605 Egypt defeated at Carchemish

609-598 Jehoiakim switches allegiance back and forth between Egypt and Babylon.

598 Nebuchadnezzar raids between Egypt and Babylon: Arameans of Syria, Moabites, Ammonites, Judah

597-586 Zedekiah follows popular opinion (while rejecting history, facts and Jeremiah) and rebels

against Babylon and sides with Egypt

586 Jeremiah observes his prophecies in real time be fulfilled

9. Habakkuk is unique since he did not speak to the people for God, but instead spoke to God as one of the people trying to understand God's activity.
10. Habakkuk is concerned with the evil of his own generation and could understand Assyria as God's discipline. But, the rise of Babylon to crush Assyria, and then, follow into Judah was hard to understand. Nations were just rising and crushing and falling and rising and....