

The law is slacked. The wicked compass about the righteous and therefore wrong judgment proceeds."

Habakkuk gave the cry to God in this situation, and God gave him a specific answer. We find the Lord's answer contained in these next few verses.

The Lord said, "Behold among the nations, and regard, and wonder marvelously; for I will work a work in your days, which you will not believe, though it be told you." Something is going to happen that you can hardly believe. You've seen this great Assyrian oppressor that has been going out conquering nation after nation, but the Assyrian conqueror is just about on his last legs. You think there is going to be a period of peace and of freedom from aggression from such as the Assyrians, there is another power that is going to give the death blow to the Assyrian empire and is not going to stop there but is going to go on as strongly as every the Assyrians did and is going to be a terrible enemy to all of you. He says something you would not believe.

"Lo I raise up the Chaldeans" - the people from the extreme south of Mesopotamia who had taken over the city of Babylon some 50 years before Habakkuk wrote and now were extending their power and influence and helping to overthrow the Assyrian empire. He says, the Chaldeans are not going to stop with that. He says, they are going to go on. God is going to use them as His instrument.

"For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess dwelling places that are not theirs. (Reading through v. 8). Verse 9, "They shall come all for violence. . ." Verse 10, "They shall scoff at the kings, and the princes shall be a scorn unto them . . . they will deride every stronghold. . . and they will pmpute this power to their god."

Did Habakkuk feel very happy now? Here is all the violence of my people. They have turned away from God, but God is going to bring the Chaldeans and they are going to overthrow the nation and take it into captivity and put an end to all this wickedness of Judah. Would that make Habakkuk happy? Habakkuk knew there was wickedness among his people but he know that compared with the nations round about they were paragons of excellence. Archaeology has shown that though there was wickedness in Judah, the moral standards were far higher than any other nation of antiquity. They had God's law and many of them were trying to stand by that law, trying to follow God's Word, looking to the sacrifices that were teaching them how to be saved through all eternity. Great prophets had spoken and were giving them God's message and many people were following these prophets. The proportion of those who were true to God in the land may have been much greater than those who were true in our country today! Here he says these terrible Chaldeans, these wicked violent people are going to overthrow and destroy them; God is going to use them to punish them for their sins. Habakkuk did not feel happy a bit about God's message. Habakkuk was ready to turn and become upset about it. So we find in the next few verses starting with v.12 and we won't have time to go into detail in these verses but just to