

1QPesher Habakkuk, 1QpHab

Col. I

¹ [Hab 1:1-2 Oracle received by the prophet Habakkuk in a vision. For how long, *yhw*h] do I ask for help without ² [you hearing (me); do I shout: Violence! to you without you saving (me)? The interpretation of this concerns the beginning of the generation ³ [... which will come upon them ⁴ [...they] will [sh]out against ⁵ [... Hab 1:3a Why do you show me misdeeds and] do you behold [to]il? *Vacat* ⁶ [The interpretation of this ... of] God with persecution and betrayal. ⁷ [Hab 1:3b You set destruction and violence in front of me and brawls occur and quarrels arise]. *Vacat* ⁸ [The interpretation of this ...] robbery of [...] and brawls ⁹ [... argument and they think] destruction ¹⁰ [...] Hab 1:4a For the Law falls into abeyance. ¹¹ [The interpretation of this ...] that they have rejected the Law of God. ¹² [Hab 1:4bc And justice does not emerge as the winner, for the evildoer accuses] the upright man. *Vacat* ¹³ [Its interpretation: the evildoer is the Wicked Priest and the upright man] is the Teacher of Righteousness ¹⁴ [... Hab 1:4d This] is why justice emerges ¹⁵ [distorted. The interpretation of this ...] and not [...] ¹⁶ [... Hab 1:5 Look, traitors, and behold,] ¹⁷ [be astonished, shocked, for in your time a work is done which you would not believe if]

Col. II

¹ it was reported. *Vacat* [... The interpretation of the word concerns] the traitors with the Man of ² the Lie, since they do not [believe in the words of] the Teacher of Righteousness from the mouth of ³ God; and (it concerns) the traitors of the] new [covenant] since they did not ⁴ believe in the covenant of God [and dishonoured] his holy name]. ⁵ Likewise: *Vacat* The interpretation of the word [concerns the traitors in the last ⁶ days. They are violator[s of the covenant] who will not believe ⁷ when they hear all that is going [to happen to] the final generation, from the mouth of ⁸ the Priest whom God has placed within the Community, to foretell the fulfilment of all ⁹ the words of his servants, the prophets, [by] means of whom God has declared ¹⁰ all that is going to happen to his people Israel]. Hab 1:6 For see, I will mobilize ¹¹ the Chaldeans, a cruel [and deter]mined people. *Vacat* ¹² Its interpretation concerns the Kittim, who are swift and powerful ¹³ in

battle, to slay many [...] in the kingdom of ¹⁴ the Kittim; they will take possession [of many countries] and will not believe ¹⁵ in the precepts of [Go]d [...] Hab 1:6 They go across the earth] ¹⁶ to [take possession of dwellings not theirs. Its interpretation ...] ¹⁷ [...]

Col. III

¹ and they will advance over the plain, to destroy and pillage the cities of the country. ² For this is what he has said: Hab 1:6 “ To take possession of dwellings not theirs”. Hab 1:7 It is dreadful ³ and terrible; his judgment and his exaltation arise from himself. *Vacat* ⁴ Its interpretation concerns the Kittim, the fear and dread of whom are on all ⁵ /the peoples;/ all their thoughts are premeditated to do evil, and with cunning and treachery ⁶ they behave towards all the nations. Hab 1:8 Their horses are swifter than panthers; they are keener ⁷ than wolves at night. *Vacat* Their war-horses paw the ground, gallop, from afar ⁸ they come flying like an eagle, hastening to eat. Hab 1:9 All of them come to use violence; the breath of ⁹ their faces is like the East wind. *Vacat* Its inter[pretation] concerns the Kittim, who ¹⁰ trample the land with [their] horse[s] and their animals ¹¹ and come from far off, from the islands of the sea, to devour all the nations, like an eagle, ¹² insatiable. With fury they are he[ated, and with] burning wrath and livid ¹³ faces they will speak to all [the nations. Fo]r this is what ¹⁴ he has said: Hab 1:9 The brea[th of their faces is like the East wind. And he gathers] captives [like sa]nd. ¹⁵ Its [interpreta]tion [...] ¹⁶ [...] ¹⁷ [...] Hab 1:10 a At kings]

Col. IV

¹ it sneers and leaders it mocks. *Vacat* Its interpretation: ² they deride the powerful and despise the honoured men; at kings ³ and princes they jeer, and sneer at a huge army. Hab 1:10b And he ⁴ laughs at every strong fortress, piles up earth and captures it. ⁵ The interpretation of this concerns the leaders of the Kittim, who despise the ⁶ fortresses of the peoples and with derision laugh at them, ⁷ they surround them with a huge army to capture them. And through dread and fear ⁸ they surrender to their hands, and they demolish them because of the wickedness of those who dwell ⁹ in them. Hab 1:11 Then the wind changes and goes on; and this one has made his might ¹⁰ his God. *Vacat* Its interpretation [con]cerns the leaders of the Kittim, ¹¹ who on the advice of a house of guilty [people] go by, one ¹² before the other. [Their] leaders, [o]ne after another, will

come ¹³ to raze the ea[rth. Hab 1:11 And] this one [has made] his might his God. ¹⁴ Its interpretation [... al]l the nations ¹⁵ [...] ¹⁶ [... Hab 1:12-13a Are you not] ¹⁷ [from of old, yhw^h my holy God. We will not die. yhw^h,]

Col. V

¹ you have appointed him to judge; Rock, you have installed him to rebuke him. Your eyes are too pure ² to look at evil, you can not stare at calamity. *Vacat* ³ The interpretation of the word: God is not to destroy his nation at the hand of the peoples, ⁴ but in the hand of his chosen ones God will place the judgment over all the peoples; and by their reproof ⁵ all the evildoers of his people will be pronounced guilty, (by the reproof) of those who kept his commandments ⁶ in their hardship. For this is what he has said: Hab 1:13a “Your eyes are too pure to look ⁷ at evil”. *Vacat* Its interpretation: they have not run after the desire of their eyes in the era of ⁸ wickedness. Hab 1:13b Why do you stare, traitors, and remain silent when ⁹ a wicked person consumes someone more upright than himself? *Vacat* Its interpretation concerns the House of Absalom ¹⁰ and the members of their council, who kept silent when the Teacher of Righteousness was rebuked, ¹¹ and did not help him against the Man of the Lie, *Vacat* who rejected ¹² the Law in the midst of their whole Council. Hab 1:14-16 You made man like fish of the sea, ¹³ like a reptile, to rule over it. All of [them] he hauls up [with a fish]-hook, catches in his net ¹⁴ and gathers in [his] trawl. This is why he offers sacri]fices to his net; this is why he rejoices ¹⁵ [and is hap]py [and burns incense to his trawl; since by them]his portion is fat ¹⁶ [and his food rich ...] ¹⁷ [...]

Col. VI

¹ of the Kittim, and they gather their wealth with all their loot ² like fish of the sea. And what it says: Hab 1:16a This is why he offers sacrifices to his net ³ and burns incense to his trawl. *Vacat* Its interpretation: they ⁴ offer sacrifices to their standards and their weapons are ⁵ the object of their worship. Hab 1:16b Since by them his portion is fat and his food rich. ⁶ Its interpretation: they distribute their yoke and ⁷ their burden, which is their food, among all the peoples, year after year, ⁸ ravaging many countries. Hab 1:17 For this he continually unsheathes his sword ⁹ to kill peoples without pity. *Vacat* ¹⁰ Its interpretation concerns the Kittim who will cause many to die by the edge of the sword,

¹¹ youths, adults and old people, women and children; not even ¹² children at the breast will they pity. Hab 2:1-2 I will stand firm in my sentrypost, ¹³ I will position myself in my fortress, and I will look out to see what he says ¹⁴ to me, and what [he answers t]o my reproof. *yhw* answered me ¹⁵ [and said: Write the vision; inscr]ibe it on tablets so that may run ¹⁶ [the one who reads it ...] ... [...] ¹⁷ [...]

Col. VII

¹ And God told Habakkuk to write what was going to happen to ² ‘to’ the last generation, but he did not let him know the consummation of the era. ³ *Vacat* And as for what he says: Hab 2:2 “So that /may run/ the one who reads it”. ⁴ Its interpretation concerns the Teacher of Righteousness, to whom God has made known ⁵ all the mysteries of the words of his servants, the prophets. Hab 2:3 For the vision has an appointed ⁶ time, it will have an end and not fail. *Vacat* ⁷ Its interpretation: the final age will be extended and go beyond all that ⁸ the prophets say, because the mysteries of God are wonderful. ⁹ Hab 2:3b Though it might tarry, wait for it; it definitely has to come and will not ¹⁰ delay. *Vacat* Its interpretation concerns the men of truth, ¹¹ those who observe the Law, whose hands will not desert the service ¹² of truth when the final age is extended beyond them, because ¹³ all the ages of God will come at the right time, as he established ¹⁴ for them in the mysteries of his prudence. Hab 2:4 See, it is conceited and does not give way ¹⁵ [his soul within him.] *Vacat* Its interpretation: they will double upon them ¹⁶ [... and] find [no] mercy at being judged. [...] ¹⁷ [... Hab 2:4b But the righteous man will live because of their loyalty to him.]

Col. VIII

¹ Its interpretation concerns all observing the Law in the House of Judah, whom ² God will free from the house of judgment on account of their toil and of their loyalty ³ to the Teacher of Righteousness. Hab 2:5-6 Surely wealth will corrupt the boaster, and not ⁴ will he last, he who widens his throat like the abyss, and he, like death can not be satisfied. ⁵ All the peoples ally against him, all the nations come together against him. ⁶ Are they not all going to chant verses against him, explaining riddles at his expense? ⁷ They shall say: Ah, one who amasses the wealth of others! How long will he load himself ⁸ with debts? *Vacat* Its interpretation concerns the Wicked Priest, who ⁹ was called loyal at the start of

his office. However, when he ruled ¹⁰ over Israel his heart became proud, he deserted God and betrayed the laws for the sake of ¹¹ riches. And he robbed and hoarded wealth from the violent men who had rebelled against God. ¹² And he seized public money, incurring additional serious sin. ¹³ And he performed re[pul]sive acts by every type of defiling impurity. Hab 2:7-8 Will not suddenly ¹⁴ your cre[di]tors get up, and those who shake you wake up? You will be their prey. ¹⁵ Since you pillaged many peoples all the rest of the nations will pillage you. ¹⁶ *Vacat* The in[terpretation of the word] concerns the Priest who rebelled ¹⁷ [...] the precepts of [God ...] ... [...]

Col. IX

¹ afflicting him with the punishments of sin; the horrors of ² terrifying maladies they have acted upon him, as well as vengeful acts on his fleshly body. And what ³ it says: Hab 2:8a “Since you pillaged many peoples all the ⁴ rest of the nations will pillage you”. *Vacat* Its interpretation concerns the last priests of Jerusalem, ⁵ who will accumulate riches and loot from plundering the nations. ⁶ However, in the last days their riches and their loot will be given into the hands ⁷ of the army of the Kittim. *Vacat* For they are Hab 2:8a “the rest of the nations”. ⁸ Hab 2:8b For the human blood (spilt) and the violence (done) to the country, the city and all /who dwell/ in it. *Vacat* ⁹ Its interpretation concerns the [Wi]cked Priest, whom, for the wickedness against the Teacher of ¹⁰ Righteousness and the members of his council, God delivered into the hands of his enemies to disgrace him ¹¹ with a punishment, to destroy him with bitterness of soul for having acted wickedly ¹² against his elect. Hab 2:9-11 Woe to anyone putting ill-gotten gains in his house, placing ¹³ his perch high up to escape the power of evil! You have planned things that will bring disgrace ¹⁴ to your house, destroying many nations and sinning against your [so]ul. For ¹⁵ the sto[ne] will shout from the wall, the wooden beam will an[swer ...] ¹⁶ [The interpretation of the wor]d concerns the pr[iest] who [...] ¹⁷ [...]

Col. X

¹ for its stones to be by oppression and the beam of its wood by pillage. And what ² it says: Hab 2:10 “Destroying many nations and sinning against your soul”. *Vacat* ³ Its interpretation: it is the house of judgment, for God will give ⁴ his judgment among many nations and from there will lead him to punishment. ⁵ And in their midst he will proclaim

him guilty and will punish him with sulphurous fire. Hab 2:12-13 Woe ⁶ to him who builds a city with blood and founds a town on wickedness! Does ⁷ this not stem from *yhwh* of Hosts that the nations wear themselves out for fire ⁸ and the peoples are exhausted for nothing? *Vacat* ⁹ The interpretation of the word concerns the Spreader of the Lie, who has misdirected many, ¹⁰ building a useless city with blood and erecting a community with deceit ¹¹ for his own glory, wearing out many by useless work and teaching them ¹² a[c]ts of deceit, so that their labours are for nothing; so that ¹³ those who derided and insulted God's chosen will go to the punishment of fire. ¹⁴ Hab 2:14 For the earth will become full of the knowledge of *yhwh's* glory just as water ¹⁵ fills the sea. *Vacat* The interpretation of the word: ¹⁶ in his return [...] ¹⁷ [...]

Col. XI

¹ the Lie. Afterwards, knowledge will be revealed to them, as plentiful as the water ² in the sea. Hab 2:15 Woe to anyone making his companion drunk, pilling out ³ his anger, or even making him drunk to look at their festivals! ⁴ *Vacat* Its interpretation concerns the Wicked Priest who ⁵ pursued the Teacher of Righteousness to consume him with the heat ⁶ of his anger in the place of his banishment. In festival time, during the rest ⁷ of the day of Atonement, he appeared to them, to consume them ⁸ and make them fall on the day of fasting, the sabbath of their rest. Hab 2:16 You are more gluttoned ⁹ with disgrace than with glory. Drink up also and stagger! ¹⁰ The cup of *yhwh's* right hand will turn against you and disgrace come ¹¹ upon your glory. *Vacat* ¹² Its interpretation concerns the Priest whose disgrace exceeded his glory ¹³ because he did not circumcise the foreskin of his heart and has walked on paths of ¹⁴ excessiveness to slake his thirst; but the cup of ¹⁵ [Go]d's anger will consume him, increasing [...] his [dis]grace. And the pain ¹⁶ [...] ¹⁷ [Hab 2:17 For the violation of Lebanon will cover you, and the destruction of animals]

Col. XII

¹ will appal you, owing to the human blood and the violence (done to) the country, the city and all who dwell there. ² The interpretation of the word concerns the Wicked Priest, to pay him the ³ reward for what he did to the poor. Because Lebanon is ⁴ the Council of the Community and the animals are the simple folk of Judah, those who observe ⁵ the Law. God will sentence him to destruction, *Vacat* ⁶ exactly as he intended to destroy the

poor. And as for what he says: Hab 2:17 “Owing to the blood ⁷ of the city and the violence (done to) the country”. Its interpretation: the city is Jerusalem ⁸ in which the /Wicked/ Priest performed repulsive acts and defiled ⁹ the Sanctuary of God. The violence (done to) the country are the cities of Judah which ¹⁰ he plundered of the possessions of the poor. Hab 2:18 What use is the sculpture which the craftsman carves, ¹¹ (or) the cast effigy and sham oracle, in whom their craftsman trusts, ¹² to make dumb idols? The interpretation of the word concerns all the ¹³ idols of the peoples which they made, to serve them and bow down ¹⁴ for them. But they will not save them on the day of Judgment. Hab 2:19-20 Woe, ¹⁵ wo[e, to anyone saying] to wood: Wake up! and to a silent [st]one: G[et up!] ¹⁶ [Can it instruct? It is covered with gold and silver, but no] ¹⁷ [spirit at all is therein. But *yhwh* is in his holy Temple.]

Col. XIII

¹ Silence in his presence, all the world! Its interpretation concerns all the peoples ² which serve stone and wood. However, on the day ³ of judgment God will destroy all the worshippers of idols, ⁴ and the wicked, from the earth. *Vacat* 5-15 *Vacat*