

A person in a dark robe stands on the edge of a stone watchtower, looking out over a vast, hazy landscape under a dramatic sunset sky. The tower has arched windows and a crenelated top. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow over the scene.

“I will stand at my
watchpost... and wait
to see what God
say....” Habakkuk 2:1

- Psalm 37:7
*Be still before
YHWH; wait
patiently till
he comes*
- Habakkuk a
complainer who
remains firmly
faithful to God
- Being conflicted is
the normal condition
for a Believer
- Habakkuk 2:2
connects to
Deut. 27:8

HABAKKUK'S VISION

- Very little was written down
- 2 imperatives:
 - 1) write it on stone
 - 2) act upon it swiftly!
- Habakkuk 2:2
- “That he may run” vs. “That the one...”
- **Qore bo** = to proclaim as in Ex. 34:6
- The oracle is to be quickly distributed



*For the vision is yet for
an appointed time...*

*though it linger, wait for it;
it will certainly come.*

Habakkuk 2:3



- This shows that the full content of the vision is not in Habakkuk's book
- **Mo'ed** = appointed time
- Is this only about the coming Apocalypse?
- Prophecies are usually fulfilled 2 or 3 times
- Latter Days & The End are a historical perspective... for Habakkuk it was about Babylon invading

BABYLON CONQUERS JUDAH



- Within 10 years Habakkuk's prophecy was fulfilled
- Happened again with Rome, and a 3rd time is coming
- Habakkuk never thought it would be hundreds of years
- 2Peter 3:9
- The vision is correct, and "does not lie"
- Oppressors will come and be destroyed; Judah will suffer woes; remnant of Judah will continue

- Verse 4 is quite pivotal!
- This is where the prophetic part of Habakkuk begins
- This statement is a divine principle
- *Lo yashar* = not upright
- *Tsaddiq (tsaddik, tzaddik)* means righteous
- *Nephesh* is a nebulous catch-word, with a wide range of meaning
- Tries to describe the invisible element of humans

HEBREW WORD

נֶפֶשׁ

NEPHEESH

“SOUL, LIFE,
LIVING BEING,
OR BREATH”

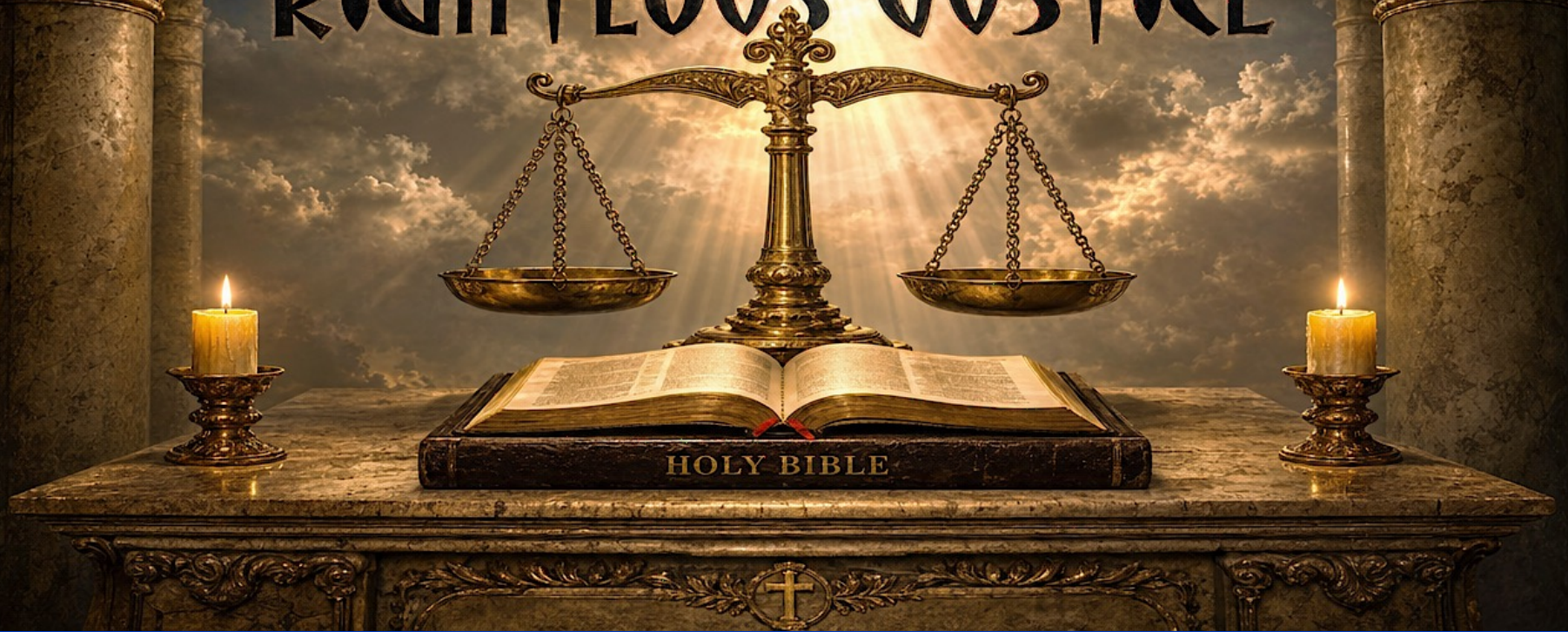
RIGHTEOUS **vs** UNRIGHTEOUS



STRAIGHT AND CROOKED

- Righteous means to be “in the right”
- In Hebrew antiquity, to be straight vs. to be crooked
- Righteous a critical state in order for a human to have a proper relationship with God
- Origin of ***Tzaddik*** = hard, even, straight (as roads)
- As time goes on, the Prophets took a different stance on the meaning of ***tzaddik***

RIGHTEOUS JUSTICE



- Amos: Righteousness and justice closely connected
- Hosea: Righteousness is worked out by one's *chesed*
- Inner repentance, spiritual consideration of neighbor, love, and not mechanical rules-keeping alone
- Righteousness comes from God, it is not the nature of humans!

“THE RIGHTEOUS”



- For Habakkuk “The Righteous” stood for Israel as represented by the pious, meek, poor among Jews
- Babylon, then, is the “unrighteous”
- After Babylon, righteous begins to refer to individuals and not just groups
- *Be-emunah* = trusting faithfulness? Faith? Steadfastness?
- Foundation of this is Abraham in Genesis 15:6
- Romans 4:3

WINE: JOY OR DRUNKENNESS



- Habakkuk 2:5 “Truly, wine is treacherous...”
- It is the effects of drunkenness that cause sin and blinds people from truth
- Daniel 5
- Belshatzar and his mighty men were drunk the night they lost Babylon to the Persians



- **Nephesh:** Desires? Greed? Appetite?
- Better: an enlargement of the negative part of the human essence (soul?)
- Sheol has an insatiable appetite to call the living to sin so as to die and live with the Prince of Sheol
- The after-death matter reflected the “2 ways” concept