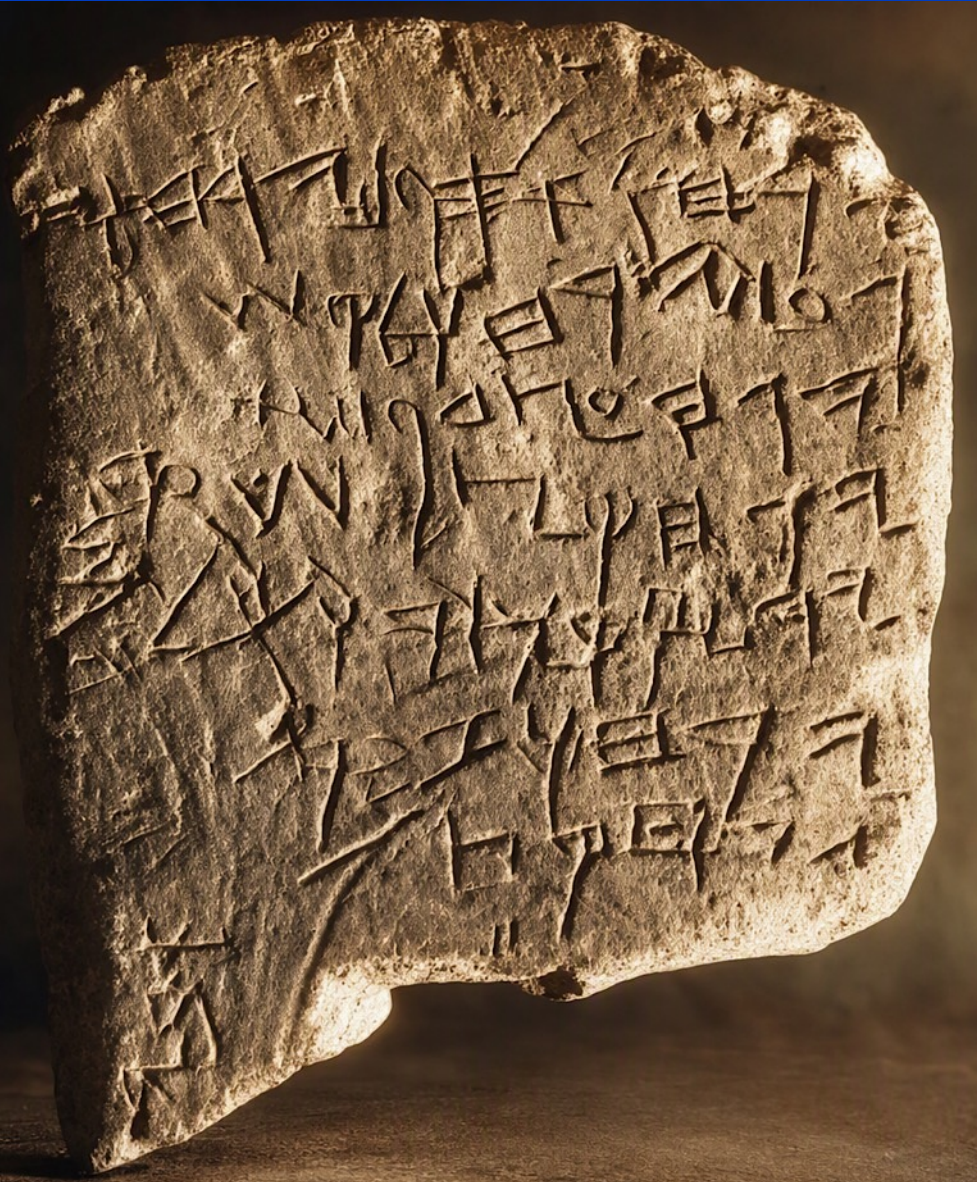


HABAKKUK 3:8 – 15

AN ARCHAIC POEM



- An independent, archaic poem
Habakkuk inserted
- It helped to remind Israel of God's mighty deeds from the past
- Our duty, today, is to translate and transpose into our lives the intent and spirit of those words, but doable in modern times and circumstances

GOD ATTACKS SEAS & RIVERS

- Poetry is used so, emotions and visual images are the point
- God metaphorically riding on horse-drawn chariot
- The purpose is not a show of force, but rather it is for victory
- Victory comes from the Hebrew *yeshua*
- *yeshua* more equals deliverance
- God is on a rescue mission for His people
- The enemy equals those who are not faithful





“You brandish
your naked bow....”

Hab. 3:9

- In the first couple of phrases, the only word that can be truly understood is “bow”
- ***Eryah te-or*** = made exposed
- The CJB interpretation is probably the best
- God is swinging into action. No more warnings
- Deut. 32:40 – 43
- ***Selah*** = a word to instruct the choir/music director

WHEN GOD SHOWS UP!

- Splitting the earth w/rivers
- Either referring to Creation, or later seas overflow remaking the landscape
- Whenever God shows up there are earthquakes
Zechariah 14:3 – 6
- Must be the same thing being talked about in
Hab. 3:10
- “The Deep thunders forth as it raises enormous waves” = tsunamis





**SO THE SUN STOOD STILL, AND THE MOON STOPPED,
UNTIL THE NATION AVENGED THEMSELVES OF THEIR
ENEMIES.**

JOSHUA 10:13

- Habakkuk 3:11 Similar to what happened in the days of Joshua
- Joshua 10:11 – 14
- ALL of God's Creation will be affected in the End Times happenings
- God is behind it all!
- The earth now enters an even more chaotic state

“In fury you stride
across the land..”



- Habakkuk 3:12 & 13
- Divine fury and anger is being explosively released
- Righteous justice demands if righteous to be saved, unrighteous must be destroyed
- God does NOT uphold tolerance as a virtue
- “the land” is in contrast with “the nations”
- “uncovering its foundations...to the neck” is a merism: all inclusive



“HIS ANOINTED ONE”

- ***Yesha*** vs. ***yeshu’ah***
- ***yesha*** best as “deliverance”
- ***yeshu’ah*** closer to victory/salvation
- ***Yesha*** being accomplished for the sake of ***yeshu’ah***
- ***Ben-Yehoveh*** meaning son of God, a title given to Israel’s kings
- ***Maschiach*** = anointed one, refers to a king of Israel
- 1Samuel 2:10

HABAKKUK 3:14

UNINTELLIGIBLE?

- Most Bible versions agree on the 1st half of this verse
- The 2nd half is exceedingly challenging
- **Matteh** = rod, but in modern thought a rod is a scepter
- It is also translated as “stave”, a weapon
- God being characterized as a ruthless warrior
- “eating the poor in secret”???
- Probably a long-forgotten idiom



THE POEM ENDS



- Habakkuk 3:15
- A natural ending that returns to the theme begun at verse 8
- F. Anderson: "...8 - 15 describe a foray by YHWH in language that is largely mythological"
- The content matches the ideas and thoughts of Hebrews at that early stage in their history
- Seems to be themed around the idea of the War against Chaos of the Canaanite and Mesopotamian god myths

➤ This takes us back to Habakkuk's thoughts at vs. 2

➤ What he heard struck him hard

➤ His "trembling" is using similar language to what happens to the earth

➤ He was NOT thinking of the far future, but of the Chaldeans and something happening soon

➤ He knew Judah was going to suffer

HABAKKUK 3:16

HIS EMOTIONS





Although the fig tree
shall not blossom,

Neither shall fruit be
in the vines...
yet I will rejoice in the
Lord, I will joy in the
God of my salvation.

Habakkuk 3:17-18

- Fruit of trees, olives, field harvests, sheep and cows, represented an abundance, and thus a blessing
- The lack of these things was the reverse
- Habakkuk says that despite the coming tribulations, there is one thing he can have joy in
- He will rejoice in the Lord, not in the blessings
- God will be his sole and sufficient objective of existence

Habakkuk

At a peace without understanding



- Habakkuk 3:19 Elohim Adonai is my strength!
- Shalom can't be conjured up; it comes only from God
- He will rely on God, not on blessings or things going on all around him
- The final words provide more good evidence that Habakkuk had been a leader of Levite musicians, but it is not concrete proof of it