





**WHEN THE GOVERNMENT
BECOMES JUDGMENT**

¹ This is the message that the prophet Habakkuk received in a vision.

² How long, O LORD, must I call for help?

But you do not listen!

“Violence is everywhere!” I cry,

but you do not come to save.

³ Must I forever see these evil deeds?

Why must I watch all this misery?

Wherever I look,

I see destruction and violence.

I am surrounded by people

who love to argue and fight.

⁴ The law has become paralyzed,

and there is no justice in the courts.

The wicked far outnumber the righteous,

so that justice has become perverted.

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- I am raising up the Babylonians, ^[b]
a cruel and violent people.
They will march across the world
and conquer other lands.

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- **2:4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.**

¹⁷ Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls:

¹⁸ Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.