

The German Composite Bible

By

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The German Composite Bible is intended to make you think more deeply about the text by progressive comparison of literal versions. Starting with German, two English versions are progressively Compared in order to gain deeper insights into the text. The mind works differently when understanding one text, when comparing two texts and when looking at more than two. As a result, an over-all meaning is obtained, which I call a "composite" understanding. When you have reached this level of understanding, you will want to record your thoughts about what the text now says, what it means to you spiritually and how you plan to apply its meaning to your life. I hope that you will find this work a help in your studies and a blessing in understanding what God would like you to know.

**German (Martin Luther)
The World English Bible
Young's Literal Translation**

Habakkuk

- 1 Dies ist die Last, welche der Prophet Habakkuk gesehen hat.
The oracle which Habakkuk the prophet saw.
The burden that Habakkuk the prophet hath seen:**

- 2 HERR, wie lange soll ich schreien, und du willst mich nicht hören? Wie lange soll ich zu dir rufen über Frevel, und du willst nicht helfen?
Yahweh, how long will I cry, and you will not hear? I cry out to you "Violence!" and will you not save?
Till when, O Jehovah, have I cried, And Thou dost not hear? I cry unto Thee --
`Violence,` and Thou dost not save.**

- 3 Warum lässest du mich Mühsal sehen und siehest dem Jammer zu? Raub und Frevel sind vor mir. Es geht Gewalt über Recht.**

Why do you show me iniquity, and look at perversity? For destruction and violence are before me. There is strife, and contention rises up.

Why dost Thou shew me iniquity, And perversity dost cause to behold? And spoiling and violence [are] before me, And there is strife, and contention doth lift [itself] up,

- 4 Darum ist das Gesetz ohnmächtig, und keine rechte Sache kann gewinnen. Denn der Gottlose übervorteilt den Gerechten; darum ergehen verkehrte Urteile.**

Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth; for the wicked surround the righteous; therefore justice goes forth perverted.

Therefore doth law cease, And judgment doth not go forth for ever, For the wicked is compassing the righteous, Therefore wrong judgment goeth forth.

- 5 Schaut unter den Heiden, seht und verwundert euch! denn ich will etwas tun zu euren Zeiten, welches ihr nicht glauben werdet, wenn man davon sagen wird.**

"Look among the nations, watch, and wonder marvelously; for I am working a work in your days, which you will not believe though it is told you.

Look ye on nations, and behold and marvel greatly. For a work He is working in your days, Ye do not believe though it is declared.

- 6 Denn siehe, ich will die Chaldäer erwecken, ein bitteres und schnelles Volk, welches ziehen wird, soweit die Erde ist, Wohnungen einzunehmen, die nicht sein sind,**

For, behold, I raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, that march through the breadth of the earth, to possess dwelling places that are not theirs.

For, lo, I am raising up the Chaldeans, The bitter and hasty nation, That is going to the broad places of earth, To occupy tabernacles not its own.

- 7 und wird grausam und schrecklich sein; das da gebeut und zwingt, wie es will. They are feared and dreaded. Their judgment and their dignity proceed from themselves.**

Terrible and fearful it [is], From itself its judgment and its excellency go forth.

- 8 Ihre Rosse sind schneller denn die Parder und behender denn die Wölfe des Abends. Ihre Reiter ziehen in großen Haufen von ferne daher, als flögen sie, wie die Adler eilen zum Aas.**

Their horses also are swifter than leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves. Their horsemen press proudly on. Yes, their horsemen come from afar. They fly as an eagle that hurries to devour.

Swifter than leopards have been its horses, And sharper than evening wolves, And increased have its horsemen, Even its horsemen from afar come in, They fly as an eagle, hasting to consume.

- 9 Sie kommen allesamt, daß sie Schaden tun; wo sie hin wollen, reißen sie hindurch wie ein Ostwind und werden Gefangene zusammenraffen wie Sand.**

All of them come for violence. Their hordes face the desert. He gathers prisoners like sand.

Wholly for violence it doth come in, Their faces swallowing up the east wind, And it doth gather as the sand a captivity.

- 10 Sie werden der Könige spotten, und der Fürsten werden sie lachen. Alle Festungen werden ihnen ein Scherz sein; denn sie werden Erde aufschütten und sie gewinnen.**

Yes, he scoffs at kings, and princes are a derision to him. He laughs at every stronghold, for he builds up an earthen ramp, and takes it.

And at kings it doth scoff, And princes [are] a laughter to it, At every fenced place it doth laugh, And it heapeth up dust, and captureth it.

- 11 Alsdann werden sie einen neuen Mut nehmen, werden fortfahren und sich versündigen; also muß ihre Macht ihr Gott sein.**

Then he sweeps by like the wind, and goes on. He is indeed guilty, whose strength is his god."

Then passed on hath the spirit, Yea, he doth transgress, And doth ascribe this his power to his god.

- 12 Aber du, HERR, mein Gott, mein Heiliger, der du von Ewigkeit her bist, laß uns nicht sterben; sondern laß sie uns, o HERR, nur eine Strafe sein und laß sie, o unser Hort, uns nur züchtigen!**

Aren't you from everlasting, Yahweh my God, my Holy One? We will not die.

Yahweh, you have appointed him for judgment. You, Rock, have established him to punish.

Art not Thou of old, O Jehovah, my God, my Holy One? We do not die, O Jehovah, For judgment Thou hast appointed it, And, O Rock, for reproof Thou hast founded it.

- 13 Deine Augen sind rein, daß du Übles nicht sehen magst, und dem Jammer kannst du nicht zusehen. Warum siehst du denn den Räubern zu und schweigst, daß der Gottlose verschlingt den, der frömmer als er ist,**

You who have purer eyes than to see evil, and who cannot look on perversity, why do you tolerate those who deal treacherously, and keep silent when the wicked swallows up the man who is more righteous than he,

Purer of eyes than to behold evil, To look on perverseness Thou art not able, Why dost Thou behold the treacherous? Thou keepest silent when the wicked Doth swallow the more righteous than he,

14 und lässest die Menschen gehen wie Fische im Meer, wie Gewürm, das keinen HERRN hat?

and make men like the fish of the sea, like the creeping things, that have no ruler over them?

And Thou makest man as fishes of the sea, As a creeping thing -- none ruling over him.

15 Sie ziehen alles mit dem Haken und fangen's mit ihrem Netz und sammeln's mit ihrem Garn; des freuen sie sich und sind fröhlich.

He takes up all of them with the hook. He catches them in his net, and gathers them in his dragnet. Therefore he rejoices and is glad.

Each of them with a hook he hath brought up, He doth catch it in his net, and gathereth it in his drag, Therefore he doth joy and rejoice.

16 Darum opfern sie ihrem Netz und räuchern ihrem Garn, weil durch diese ihr Teil so fett und ihre Speise so völlig geworden ist.

Therefore he sacrifices to his net, and burns incense to his dragnet, because by them his life is luxurious, and his food is good.

Therefore he doth sacrifice to his net, And doth make perfume to his drag, For by them [is] his portion fertile, and his food fat.

17 Sollen sie derhalben ihr Netz immerdar auswerfen und nicht aufhören, Völker zu erwürgen?

Will he therefore continually empty his net, and kill the nations without mercy?

Doth he therefore empty his net, And continually to slay nations spare not?

- 1 Hier stehe ich auf meiner Hut und trete auf meine Feste und schaue und sehe zu, was mir gesagt werde, und was meine Antwort sein sollte auf mein Rechten.
I will stand at my watch, and set myself on the ramparts, and will look out to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint.
On my charge I stand, and I station myself on a bulwark, and I watch to see what He doth speak against me, and what I do reply to my reproof.**
- 2 Der HERR aber antwortet mir und spricht: Schreib das Gesicht und male es auf eine Tafel, daß es lesen könne, wer vorüberläuft!
Yahweh answered me, "Write the vision, and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.
And Jehovah answereth me and saith: `Write a vision, and explain on the tables, That he may run who is reading it.**
- 3 Die Weissagung wird ja noch erfüllt werden zu seiner Zeit und endlich frei an den Tag kommen und nicht ausbleiben. Ob sie aber verzieht, so harre ihrer: sie wird gewiß kommen und nicht verziehen.
For the vision is yet for the appointed time, and it hurries toward the end, and won't prove false. Though it takes time, wait for it; because it will surely come. It won't delay.
For yet the vision [is] for a season, And it breatheth for the end, and doth not lie, If it tarry, wait for it, For surely it cometh, it is not late.**
- 4 Siehe, wer halsstarrig ist, der wird keine Ruhe in seinem Herzen haben; der Gerechte aber wird seines Glaubens leben.
Behold, his soul is puffed up. It is not upright in him, but the righteous will live by his faith.
Lo, a presumptuous one! Not upright is his soul within him, And the righteous by his stedfastness liveth.**

- 5 Aber der Wein betrügt den stolzen Mann, daß er nicht rasten kann, welcher seine Seele aufsperrt wie die Hölle und ist gerade wie der Tod, der nicht zu sättigen ist, sondern rafft zu sich alle Heiden und sammelt zu sich alle Völker.**

Yes, moreover, wine is treacherous. A haughty man who doesn't stay at home, who enlarges his desire as Sheol, and he is like death, and can't be satisfied, but gathers to himself all nations, and heaps to himself all peoples.

And also, because the wine [is] treacherous, A man is haughty, and remaineth not at home, Who hath enlarged as sheol his soul, And is as death that is not satisfied, And doth gather unto itself all the nations, And doth assemble unto itself all the peoples,

- 6 Was gilt's aber? diese alle werden einen Spruch von ihm machen und eine Sage und Sprichwort und werden sagen: Weh dem, der sein Gut mehrt mit fremden Gut! Wie lange wird's währen, und ladet nur viel Schulden auf sich?**

Won't all these take up a parable against him, and a taunting proverb against him, and say, `Woe to him who increases that which is not his, and who enriches himself by extortion! How long?`

Do not these -- all of them -- against him a simile taken up, And a moral of acute sayings for him, And say, Wo [to] him who is multiplying [what is] not his? Till when also is he multiplying to himself heavy pledges?

- 7 O wie plötzlich werden aufstehen die dich beißen, und erwachen, die dich wegstoßen! und du mußt ihnen zuteil werden.**

Won't your debtors rise up suddenly, and wake up those who make you tremble, and you will be their victim?

Do not thy usurers instantly rise up, And those shaking thee awake up, And thou hast been for a spoil to them?

- 8** Denn du hast viele Heiden beraubt; so werden dich wieder berauben alle übrigen von den Völkern um des Menschenbluts willen und um des Frevels willen, im Lande und in der Stadt und an allen, die darin wohnen, begangen.
- Because you have plundered many nations, all the remnant of the peoples will plunder you, because of men`s blood, and for the violence done to the land, to the city and to all who dwell in it.
- Because thou hast spoiled many nations, Spoil thee do all the remnant of the peoples, Because of man`s blood, and of violence [to] the land, [To] the city, and [to] all dwelling in it.
- 9** Weh dem, der da geizt zum Unglück seines Hauses, auf daß er sein Nest in die Höhe lege, daß er dem Unfall entrinne!
- Woe to him who gets an evil gain for his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the hand of evil!
- Wo [to] him who is gaining evil gain for his house, To set on high his nest, To be delivered from the hand of evil,
- 10** Aber dein Ratschlag wird zur Schande deines Hauses geraten; denn du hast zu viele Völker zerschlagen und hast mit allem Mutwillen gesündigt.
- You have devised shame to your house, by cutting off many peoples, and have sinned against your soul.
- Thou hast counselled a shameful thing to thy house, To cut off many peoples, and sinful [is] thy soul.
- 11** Denn auch die Steine in der Mauer werden schreien, und die Sparren am Balkenwerk werden ihnen antworten.
- For the stone will cry out of the wall, and the beam out of the woodwork will answer it.
- For a stone from the wall doth cry out, And a holdfast from the wood answereth it.

- 12 Weh dem, der die Stadt mit Blut baut und richtet die Stadt mit Unrecht zu!
Woe to him who builds a town with blood, and establishes a city by iniquity!
Wo [to] him who is building a city by blood, And establishing a city by iniquity.**
- 13 Wird's nicht also vom HERRN Zebaoth geschehen: was die Völker gearbeitet haben, muß mit Feuer verbrennen, und daran die Leute müde geworden sind, das muß verloren sein?
Behold, isn't it of Yahweh of Hosts that the peoples labor for the fire, and the nations weary themselves for vanity?
Lo, is it not from Jehovah of Hosts And peoples are fatigued for fire, And nations for vanity are weary?**
- 14 Denn die Erde wird voll werden von Erkenntnis der Ehre des HERRN, wie Wasser das Meer bedeckt.
For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh, as the waters cover the sea.
For full is the earth of the knowledge of the honour of Jehovah, As waters cover [the bottom of] a sea.**
- 15 Weh dir, der du deinem Nächsten einschenkst und mischest deinen Grimm darunter und ihn trunken machst, daß du sein Blöße sehest!
"Woe to him who gives his neighbor drink, pouring your inflaming wine until they are drunk, so that you may gaze at their naked bodies!
Wo [to] him who is giving drink to his neighbour, Pouring out thy bottle, and also making drunk, In order to look on their nakedness.**

- 16 Du hast dich gesättigt mit Schande und nicht mit Ehre. So saufe du nun auch, daß du taumelst! denn zu dir wird umgehen der Kelch in der Rechten des HERRN, und mußt eitel Schande haben für deine Herrlichkeit.**

You are filled with shame, and not glory. You will also drink, and be exposed! The cup of Yahweh`s right hand will come around to you, and disgrace will cover your glory.

Thou hast been filled -- shame without honour, Drink thou also, and be uncircumcised, Turn round unto thee doth the cup of the right hand of Jehovah, And shameful spewing [is] on thine honour.

- 17 Denn der Frevel, am Libanon begangen, wird dich überfallen, und die verstörten Tiere werden dich schrecken um des Menschenbluts willen und um des Frevels willen, im Lande und in der Stadt und an allen, die darin wohnen, begangen.**

For the violence done to Lebanon will overwhelm you, and the destruction of the animals, which made them afraid; because of men`s blood, and for the violence done to the land, to every city and to those who dwell in them.

For violence [to] Lebanon doth cover thee, And spoil of beasts doth affright them, Because of man`s blood, and of violence [to] the land, [To] the city, and [to] all dwelling in it.

- 18 Was wird dann helfen das Bild, das sein Meister gebildet hat, und das falsche gegossene Bild, darauf sich verläßt sein Meister, daß er stumme Götzen machte?**

"What value does the engraved image have, that its maker has engraved it; the molten image, even the teacher of lies, that he who fashions its form trusts in it, to make mute idols?

What profit hath a graven image given That its former hath graven it? A molten image and teacher of falsehood, That trusted hath the former on his own formation

- to make dumb idols?

19 Weh dem, der zum Holz spricht: Wache auf! und zum stummen Steine: Stehe auf! Wie sollte es lehren? Siehe, es ist mit Gold und Silber überzogen und ist kein Odem in ihm.

Woe to him who says to the wood, `Awake!` or to the mute stone, `Arise!` Shall this teach? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in the midst of it.

Wo [to] him who is saying to wood, `Awake,` `Stir up,` to a dumb stone, It a teacher! lo, it is overlaid -- gold and silver, And there is no spirit in its midst.

20 Aber der HERR ist in seinem heiligen Tempel. Es sei vor ihm still alle Welt! But Yahweh is in his holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before him!" And Jehovah [is] in His holy temple, Be silent before Him, all the earth!

1 Dies ist das Gebet des Propheten Habakkuk für die Unschuldigen: A prayer of Habakkuk, the prophet, set to victorious music. A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet concerning erring ones:

2 HERR, ich habe dein Gerücht gehört, daß ich mich entsetze. HERR, mache dein Werk lebendig mitten in den Jahren und laß es kund werden mitten in den Jahren. Wenn Trübsal da ist, so denke der Barmherzigkeit.

Yahweh, I have heard of your fame. I stand in awe of your deeds, Yahweh. Renew your work in the midst of the years. In the midst of the years make it known. In wrath, you remember mercy.

O Jehovah, I heard thy report, I have been afraid, O Jehovah, Thy work! in midst of years revive it, In the midst of years Thou makest known In anger Thou dost remember mercy.

- 3 Gott kam vom Mittag und der Heilige vom Gebirge Pharan. (Sela.) Seines Lobes war der Himmel voll, und seiner Ehre war die Erde voll.**
God came from Teman, The Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, And his praise filled the earth.
God from Teman doth come, The Holy One from mount Paran. Pause! Covered the heavens hath His majesty, And His praise hath filled the earth.
- 4 Sein Glanz war wie ein Licht; Strahlen gingen von seinen Händen; darin war verborgen seine Macht.**
His splendor is like the sunrise. Rays shine from his hand, where his power is hidden.
And the brightness is as the light, He hath rays out of His hand, And there -- the hiding of His strength.
- 5 Vor ihm her ging Pestilenz, und Plage ging aus, wo er hin trat.**
Plague went before him, And pestilence followed his feet.
Before Him goeth pestilence, And a burning flame goeth forth at His feet.
- 6 Er stand und maß die Erde, er schaute und machte beben die Heiden, daß zerschmettert wurden die Berge, die von alters her sind, und sich bücken mußten die ewigen Hügel, da er wie vor alters einherzog.**
He stood, and shook the earth. He looked, and made the nations tremble. The ancient mountains were crumbled. The age-old hills collapsed. His ways are eternal.
He hath stood, and He measureth earth, He hath seen, and He shaketh off nations, And scatter themselves do mountains of antiquity, Bowed have the hills of old, The ways of old [are] His.

7 Ich sah der Mohren Hütten in Not und der Midianiter Gezelte betrübt.

I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction. The dwellings of the land of Midian trembled.

Under sorrow I have seen tents of Cushan, Tremble do curtains of the land of Midian.

8 Warst du nicht zornig, HERR, in der Flut und dein Grimm in den Wassern und dein Zorn im Meer, da du auf deinen Rossen rittest und deine Wagen den Sieg behielten?

Was Yahweh displeased with the rivers? Was your anger against the rivers, Or your wrath against the sea, That you rode on your horses, On your chariots of salvation?

Against rivers hath Jehovah been wroth? Against rivers [is] Thine anger? Against the sea [is] Thy wrath? For Thou dost ride on Thy horses -- Thy chariots of salvation?

9 Du zogst den Bogen hervor, wie du geschworen hattest den Stämmen (sela!), und verteiltest die Ströme ins Land.

You uncovered your bow. You called for your sworn arrows. Selah. You split the earth with rivers.

Utterly naked Thou dost make Thy bow, Sworn are the tribes -- saying, `Pause!` [With] rivers Thou dost cleave the earth.

10 Die Berge sahen dich, und ihnen ward bange; der Wasserstrom fuhr dahin, die Tiefe ließ sich hören, die Höhe hob die Hände auf.

The mountains saw you, and were afraid. The tempest of waters passed by. The deep roared and lifted up its hands on high.

Seen thee -- pained are mountains, An inundation of waters hath passed over, Given forth hath the deep its voice, High its hands it hath lifted up.

11 Sonne und Mond standen still. Deine Pfeile fuhren mit Glänzen dahin und dein Speere mit Leuchten des Blitzes.

**The sun and moon stood still in the sky, At the light of your arrows as they went,
At the shining of your glittering spear.**

**Sun -- moon -- hath stood -- a habitation, At the light thine arrows go on, At the
brightness, the glittering of thy spear.**

12 Du zertratest das Land im Zorn und zerdrostest die Heiden im Grimm.

You marched through the land in wrath. You threshed the nations in anger.

In indignation Thou dost tread earth, In anger Thou dost thresh nations.

13 Du zogst aus, deinem Volk zu helfen, zu helfen deinem Gesalbten; du zerschmettertest das Haupt im Hause des Gottlosen und entblößtest die Grundfeste bis an den Hals. (Sela.)

**You went forth for the salvation of your people, For the salvation of your anointed.
You crushed the head of the land of wickedness. You stripped them head to foot.
Selah.**

**Thou hast gone forth for the salvation of Thy people, For salvation with Thine
anointed, Thou hast smitten the head of the house of the wicked, Laying bare the
foundation unto the neck. Pause!**

14 Du durchbohrtest mit seinen Speeren das Haupt seiner Scharen, die wie ein Wetter kamen, mich zu zerstreuen, und freuten sich, als fräßen sie die Elenden im Verborgenen.

**You pierced the heads of his warriors with their own spears. They came as a
whirlwind to scatter me, Gloating as if to devour the wretched in secret.**

**Thou hast pierced with his staves the head of his leaders, They are tempestuous to
scatter me, Their exultation [is] as to consume the poor in secret.**

- 15 Deine Rosse gingen im Meer, im Schlamm großer Wasser.
You trampled the sea with your horses, Churning mighty waters.
Thou hast proceeded through the sea with Thy horses -- the clay of many waters.**
- 16 Weil ich solches hörte, bebt mein Leib, meine Lippen zittern von dem Geschrei;
Eiter geht in meine Gebeine, und meine Kniee beben, dieweil ich ruhig harren muß
bis auf die Zeit der Trübsal, da wir hinaufziehen zum Volk, das uns bestreitet.
I heard, and my body trembled. My lips quivered at the voice. Rottenness enters
into my bones, and I tremble in my place, Because I must wait quietly for the day
of trouble, For the coming up of the people who invade us.
I have heard, and my belly trembleth, At the noise have my lips quivered,
Rottenness doth come into my bones, And in my place I do tremble, That I rest for
a day of distress, At the coming up of the people, he overcometh it.**
- 17 Denn der Feigenbaum wird nicht grünen, und wird kein Gewächs sein an den
Weinstöcken; die Arbeit am Ölbaum ist vergeblich, und die Äcker bringen keine
Nahrung; und Schafe werden aus den Hürden gerissen, und werden keine Rinder in
den Ställen sein.
For though the fig tree doesn't flourish, Nor fruit be in the vines; The labor of
the olive fails, The fields yield no food; The flocks are cut off from the fold,
And there is no herd in the stalls:
Though the fig-tree doth not flourish, And there is no produce among vines, Failed
hath the work of the olive, And fields have not yielded food, Cut off from the fold
hath been the flock, And there is no herd in the stalls.**
- 18 Aber ich will mich freuen des HERRN und fröhlich sein in Gott, meinem Heil.
Yet I will rejoice in Yahweh. I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!
Yet I, in Jehovah I exult, I do joy in the God of my salvation.**

- 19 Denn der HERR ist meine Kraft und wird meine Füße machen wie Hirschfüße und wird mich auf meine Höhen führen. Vorzusingen auf meinem Saitenspiel.**
- Yahweh, the Lord, is my strength. He makes my feet like deer`s feet, And enables me to go in high places. For the music director, on my stringed instruments.**
- Jehovah the Lord [is] my strength, And He doth make my feet like hinds, And on my high-places causeth me to tread. To the overseer with my stringed instruments!**