

SATHTHIYA VAVARTHAI

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IBT Founder (Late) Rev. Prof. S. Panneer Selvam

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HABAKKUK THE PROPHET



SATHTHIYA VAARTHAI

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OCTOBER 2025

HABAKKUK THE PROPHET

Introduction

God did not fail to send prophets to the children. The Lord spoke His words through these prophets. Israel very often depended on the Lord's word through these prophets during war and hard times. Even the divided kingdom after king Solomon, God sent prophets to the kingdom of Israel and the kingdom of Judah separately. As example, Elijah and Elisha were the prophets to the kingdom of Israel, whereas Isaiah and Jeremiah were prophets to the kingdom of Judah.

The prophet Habakkuk was a prophet to the kingdom of Judah. He prophesied during the latter part of the reign of king Josiah through the reign of king Jehoiakim. We need to understand the background and the situation in the land during and prior to the time of his prophetic days.

Historical Background

The prophet Habakkuk prophesied during the latter days of king Josiah and during the days of king Jehoiakim – dated (609 BC – 597 BC). The northern kingdom of Israel had already gone into captivity to the Assyrians in the year 722 BC. There is no doubt that Habakkuk had enough knowledge about the atrocities committed by the Assyrians to their captives. Even according to secular history, the Assyrians were fierce warriors and did not

hesitate to commit terrible crimes against their captives. As an empire, they were a terror to the neighboring countries.

During Hezekiah's reign, there was a great revival, but his son Manasseh did evil in God's sight. His reign is recorded in II Kgs. 21: 1-8 and II Chr. 33: 1-12. Though he returned to the Lord before the end of his reign, he did much evil during much of his reign. It is recorded that he, "shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another". He had re-built the high places that Hezekiah had destroyed, he worshipped the host of heaven, his sons passed through the fire, practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft and consulted mediums and spiritists. Here is what the Lord had said regarding Judah, "His anger was aroused against Judah because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked" (II Kgs. 23: 26). However, under his grand-son Josiah, there was a great revival. His sons, Jehoahaz and then Jehoiakim, who took over the reign after Josiah's death became evil kings. They failed to follow in the footsteps of their father Josiah. During the reign of Jehoiakim, the Babylonians under king Nebuchadnezzar made Jehoiakim his servant for 3 years. The Lord also sent (II Kgs. 24: 1, 2) raiding bands of Chaldees, Syrians, Moabites, from Ammon to destroy Judah. Habakkuk lived under these conditions, and his heart cried out to God for Judah.

Habakkuk's First Question (Hab. 1: 1-4)

Habakkuk cries out to God because of current bad conditions. He does not see punishment on the ungodly, but he sees these ungodly bands, enemies of Judah raiding the land and the people. He does not see any answer to it from God and wonders why God not stepped in to set things right as He sees contention and strife. Even justice has no power because even the courts are unjust. In many countries around the world, it is no different today. He found that the wicked are surrounding the righteous.

Furthermore, the kingdom of Israel was no more, destroyed by the Assyrians in 722 BC. The kingdom of Judah is under attack by the Babylonians. The prophets were prophesying against Judah. The Lord sent these prophets to prophecy against Judah (II Kings 24: 3-4) because of Manasseh's sins. Jesus in fact. addresses the Pharisees as to their spiritual condition, that they despised God's laws in (Mk. 7: 6-9) "He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition."

Many of us have faced unanswered prayers. However, we should not give up but continue to cry out to Him at the throne of grace and wait patiently for His answer.

The Lord Replies (Hab 1: 5-11)

The Lord finally replies, however, this was surely not the answer he expected. In this passage, God describes the Babylonians as a dreadful nation and as they conquer other nation and succeed, they ascribe these victories to their gods. But, the key in God's answer is in part of verse 5, "...For I will work a, work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it were told you."

How often have you waited on the Lord and the answer you got was a surprise or unexpected by you? God does not answer the way we want it answered most of the time. His answer will always end up being better than expected. That is why we read in (Is. 55: 8-9) "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."

What then is the unbelievable work that God was going to do? The apostle Paul provides an explanation and then quotes **Hab** 1:5 in **Acts 13: 41**. He narrates a brief history of Israel beginning from Abraham to the coming of Jesus and His death and resurrection. The life of Jesus and God's plan of salvation of justification by faith in the Lord Jesus' death and

resurrection was something that would have been too wonderful if explained to people in Habakkuk's time. This is what God promised would happen, and it did happen according to His word. We are so blessed to know that God is a promise keeper, and His words will never fail as Jesus eloquently put it. In Mt 5: 18 "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

Habakkuk's Second Question (Hab 1: 12 – 17)

Habakkuk describes God as Everlasting, Holy. He seems to say that the righteous should not die either, whereas the wicked are appointed to judgement and correction. God is pure that He cannot countenance evil. His question is being pure and holy, why does God tolerate evil? How can a Holy God permit a righteous nation to be destroyed by a heathen nation? In other words, he was asking why a holy God would permit a wicked nation like Babylon to destroy a more righteous nation Judah? He makes a parable comparing the fish caught in a net to the righteous.

While Habakkuk Waits, The Lord Answers (Hab 2: 1-3)

God tells him to write the vision on a tablet so that people can read it and run with it or be sustained by the message. God asks him to wait for its fulfilment that will happen without fail. The message is this "But the just shall live by faith" (Hab 2: 4) – But, God tells Habakkuk that it will have to wait for fulfilment.

Habakkuk's prayer to the Lord involved both the wicked and the righteous. The Lord's answer is that the righteous will be justified by faith. We tend to attribute this sentence to the apostle Paul, but it appears that Paul was quoting from Habakkuk's writing, and God was the author of these words. The long wait is apparently pointing to Jesus' sacrifice for the penalty of sin and that those who believe in Him will be saved, by faith alone. We read Paul quoting this scripture in Rom 1: 17 " For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith." Gal 3: 11 "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, **The** just shall live by faith" and Heb. 10: 38 "Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him." The apostle Paul explains this doctrine in his writings and as examples, in Rom 5: 1 "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:" and in (Phi. 3: 9) "And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:"

We must understand that we are not saved by the good things that we do. Jesus Himself said in Jn 3: 16 "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." If we are going to be saved by works, can anyone define how many and what type of good works will provide eternal life after death? If they do, it must come from the pits of

hell! It is Jesus who paid the penalty for our sins and as a result, we are saved by God's grace and by believing in Him we receive the gift of salvation which is eternal life. For we read in Eph 2: 8-9 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." We need to exhibit good works because of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as in Gal 5: 22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

Pronouncements of "Woe" to the Wicked (Hab 2: 5 – 19)

God in His response also addresses Habakkuk's concern regarding the wickedness of the wicked and why they don't seem to be punished. He lists out the type of wickedness. These probably existed in his days. He describes five of them and declares woes on each one of those who lived such wicked lives.

- Woe 1: to the dishonest and greedy (Hab 2:6)
- Woe 2: to the covetous (Hab 2: 9)
- ❖ Woe 3: to the blood thirsty (Hab 2: 12)
- Woe 4: to the debauchers (Hab 2: 15)
- ♦ Woe 5: to the idolators (Hab 2: 19)
- Two verses that stand out:
- Hab 2: 14 "For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." Although the wicked grow, nothing or nobody can stop the good news of the gospel of Christ from

spreading through all the world. We have a similar verse in Is 11: 9 "... For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." This scripture in the context of the chapter speaks about the end times when Jesus will reign and rule over all the earth.

Hab 2: 20 "But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him." This is a call for reverence and holy fear of the Lord that in His presence we need to stay still so that we can hear what He has to say to us. This happens when we spend time in meditating on God's word and silently wait on Him. Remember when Moses stood before God at the burning bush, he heard God's voice saying, "Take off the shoes from off thy feet for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground." God expects us to show Godly reverence in His presence. There are other scripture that point to this as in Zeph. 1:7 "Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord GOD: ..."; and in Zach. 2:13 "Be silent, O all flesh, before the LORD: for he is raised up out of his holy habitation."

Prayer of Habakkuk (Hab 3: 1-19)

There are many great prayers in the Bible such as king Solomon during the dedication of the temple in Jerusalem. Hezekiah at the invasion of the Assyrian king Sennacherib, Ezra for the sins of the people, Jesus' intercessory prayer etc, we can learn much from each of these prayers. Habakkuk's prayer in general, is a worshipful prayer of God's greatness and glory.

We have seen the background of the times in which he lived and prophesied. He had seen the revival under Josiah and how the country has since then forgot God. He was therefore concerned and longed for a revival and he starts off his prayer with his greatest concern and cries out, "O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make it known..."

We are well aware of the evils surrounding this world. We read of all the evils in our social media of many kinds almost in real time. However, we have become so numb to it all so that we do not seem to be concerned about it. Family and friends are perishing without Jesus. When is the last time you cried out to God for a

revival in your hometown in which you have lived for so long or the country you live in today. I am guilty of this too! May we lift up our nation as well as the nations of the world that we might see a revival.

Finally, he ends with this verse, unflinched by all that was happening around him. Hab 3: 17, 18 "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: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation."

- Dr. Sam Russell

WORLD NEWS

- 1. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin issued appointment orders to 89 candidates selected for Group 1 services. The event was held at the Secretariat on Monday (25.08.2025).
- 2. India and Fiji have decided to strengthen mutual cooperation in the field of defence.
- 3. Brendan Valentine Cresto (44), a Christian born in Pakistan, received Indian citizenship after waiting for 19 years. At the event held in Panaji on Monday (25.08.2025), Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant handed over the citizenship certificate to him.
- 4. C.P. Radhakrishnan (T.N.) is elected as Vice President of India
- 5. 400 Scientists worked continously during operation Sindoor, ISRO Chairperson V. Narayanan said.
- 6. President Emmanuel Macron has named close Ally Sebastien Lecronu as the new French Prime Minister.
- From Tamil Nadu, teachers from Chennai and Udumalai (Revathi Parameswaran and Vijayalakshmi) have been selected for the National Teachers' Award given by the Central Government in the education sector. Similarly, V. Radhakrishnan, a teacher at Thillaiyadi Valliammai Government Higher Secondary School, Puducherry, has also been selected for this award.

EDITORIAL

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

We extend our loving greetings to you in the sweet name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, on behalf of the Saththiya Vaarthai magazine.

"And I sought for a man among them, who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none" (Ezekiel 22:30).

When we read about the history of Job, we find that the Lord had hedged Job, his household, and everything he possessed all around. Because of this, Satan could not touch Job or anything that belonged to him. In the Song of Songs we read: "You are a garden locked." Why must a garden be locked? If it is not enclosed, foxes and little foxes will come in and ruin the garden. For the city of Jericho, its walls were its strength; no one could overcome it as long as the walls stood. Only after the people of Israel marched around the wall for seven days, the Lord brought down the walls. Only then, they were able to conquer the city.

In the same way, whether it is a nation, a city, a family, or an individual, as long as they walk in obedience to the commandments and statutes of the Lord, Satan can do nothing against them.

But when they transgress the Lord's commands and sin increases, an opening is made in their wall of protection. Through that breach, the enemy enters and is able to harm that nation or family. Many times, when the people of Israel turned away from the Lord and committed grievous sins against Him, He gave them into the hands of enemy kings, or they were destroyed by plagues and famine. At such times, the Lord seeks people who will intercede and plead before Him for the nation and for its sins, so that the nation may not be destroyed.

In the days of Abraham, because of the grievous sins of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, the Lord purposed to destroy them. But when Abraham interceded and prayed, Lot's family was saved from that destruction. During the wilderness journey of the Israelites, Moses went up the mountain and remained with God for forty days to receive the tablets of the law and the commandments to give to the people. When the people saw that Moses was delayed in coming down, they said to Aaron, "We do not know what has happened to Moses. Make us a god who will go before us." Aaron made them a golden calf. The people worshiped it and offered sacrifices to it. Because of this sin, the Lord said He would destroy them. But Moses stood in the breach before Him and prayed, so that the Lord's wrath might be turned away and the people would not be destroyed. In the same way, Jesus Christ also intercedes with the Father on our behalf, so that we may not perish because of our sins.

In Ezekiel 9:4, the Lord said to one man: "Go through the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it." He then commanded that all the people without the mark should be destroyed. In the same way, the Lord will protect those who pray for the nation from the destruction that will take place in the last days. As children of Christ, we too must intercede and pray to Jesus Christ for the sins of our nation and for the salvation of its people, for "the prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working" (James 5:16).

Last month, Bhojpuri translator from Uttar Pradesh and translators of the Mirgan, Kalahandia, and Deshia languages from Odisha came to the IBT Centre in Coimbatore. From the 4th to the 23rd of August, they worked on the Old Testament books. During that time, they also received some guidance from BSI Rev. Dr. Subramani, who was present there. From the 11th to the 16th of the same month, Sister. Deveshkumari, the Bundeli translator from Madhya Pradesh, carried out the checking work in the New Testament portion under the guidance of Rev. Subramani. It has been decided to release the New Testament in this

language, along with the full Bible in the four languages mentioned above, at the next Logos camp.

On the 10th of this month, at the morning service in TELC Church. Peelamedu. Coimbatore, Bro. Simon shared God's Word and Mrs. Navamani Sekar explained the IBT ministry. On the 24th of this month, at St. Paul's Church, Tirupur, Mrs. Sujana Raja shared God's Word and Bro. Rajkumar gave an explanation about the IBT ministry. Since this year IBT has planned to publish four New Testament books, the need for printing was shared with the congregation through a small pamphlet, and they enthusiastically contributed their offerings. IBT expresses its heartfelt thanks to the Pastor, Secretary, Treasurer, and all the congregation members for the opportunity and their participation. Please continue to pray that the Lord may bless Mrs. Sujana Raja, who encouraged the congregations with a useful message in both services, and that the projects planned to be published through IBT may be completed without any hindrance. Kindly introduce this magazine to others after you finish reading it, so that they too may benefit from it. May the Lord protect and bless you and your families everyday!

In His Service
K. Jaisingh

FIELD NEWS

1. Missionary: Bro. Chandrika Dass Mission Station: Pindra (Uttar Pradesh)

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ!

Last month, for missionary work, I went to the villages of Kangapur, Gangawa, Sureri Bazaar, Parsahani, Mariyagu, Kilpila, Pachangra, Kachia Ramalpatti, Jalalpur, Subepur, Lakhongpur, Kardaha, Udaysanpur, Samogar, Naibasti, Thanerampur, Shivalay, Darsawakana, Ratanpur, and Barepur. I distributed tracts, proclaimed the gospel, and prayed for the people there. Among them, Bro. Balpa Pravapathi, Kushagal Ram, Mrs. Pravathi Devi, Saroja Devi, Nirmala Devi, and Prabhavathi eagerly listened to the gospel.

Sunday worship service and second Saturday fasting prayers are being held regularly in Pindra mission station. Not less than 100 people take part in the Sunday worship. Please pray for the growth of this church and for my family.

2. Promotional staff: Bro. Ramalingam Mission Station: Kotagiri (Nilgiris)

May the name of the Lord Jesus Christ be glorified!

On March 11th, in the accident that took place, I suffered a hip bone fracture. I received treatment, and the Lord heard the prayers and graciously granted me complete healing soon, enabling me to carry on my work once again with renewed zeal for the glory of His name. To Him alone be praise, honour, and glory! During the days I was receiving treatment in the hospital, the IBT administrators extended their helping hand, which was of great support. Not only that, immediately after I was discharged from the hospital, the IBT treasurer also helped by providing me with the house in Mettupalayam where the promotional worker was staying, and I was able to stay there for four

months, which I cannot forget.

Moreover, IBT sponsors visited me in the hospital as well as in Mettupalayam, prayed for my health, and encouraged me. Daily, IBT members, relatives, and sponsors upheld me in prayer, and as the fruit of those prayers, the Lord granted me such good health within four months that even the doctors were amazed. Meanwhile, to ensure that the offerings received for the IBT ministry were not hindered, my two sons and my wife continued to do the promotional work and faithfully collected the offerings in support of the ministry. Also, new child sponsors were added during this time, which brought me great joy. Please pray that I may continue my work with enthusiasm and see further progress.

3. Translator/ Missionary: Bro. K. Samuel Language: Irula Velliyankadu Mission Station: Vattalakki (Kerala)

Praise the Lord!

Last month, in the Bible translation work, the New Testament book of Luke from chapter 13 to 24 and John from chapter 1 to 19 were re-read and checked. In addition, we visited the villages of Velliyangadu, Alangandi, and Koppalari to see whether they are using the books of Psalms and Proverbs that were given to them, and also instructed them to make use of them. The newly printed New Testament "Puthiya Niyama" is also being used. Among the Irula people, the majority are enslaved to drugs. From youth onwards, many are addicted to this condition. Please pray that they may be delivered from this sin.

In the village of Vennthappatti, a young man named Ramesh is suffering under the bondage of an evil spirit. We are continually praying for him. We kindly request you to pray that this brother may be delivered from the power of the evil spirit, grow in faith, accept Jesus, receive salvation, and live for Christ.

4. Translator: Bro. S. N. Sankar Language: Sourashtra Mission Station: Trichy (Tamil Nadu)

Glory to the Lord!

In the month of July, I translated children's Bible stories into the Sourashtra language. They are: The Kingdom of Israel, The Reign of Saul, The Fall of Saul, The Unjust Sacrifice of the Ammonites, David Spares Saul's Life, David and Abigail, and The Death of Saul.

I also read the book of Philippians in both Tamil and Sourashtra translations and took notes on clear and accurate translated verses. On July 2nd, a meeting for Sourashtra believers was held in Madurai. Twenty-five people attended. We read the book of Philippians in the Sourashtra language and discussed the Sourashtra Bible translation. We also prayed for the salvation of the Sourashtra people. We shared the gospel with some Sourashtra families in Kumbakonam and Madurai. Please pray for Mani, Uday, Subbu, Hari, Saravanan, Leela, Lakshmi, and Raja, who heard the gospel. I also attended the retired missionaries' meeting held in Oddanchatram. Please pray for us.

5. Translator: Bro. Pitambar Mahanand Language: Kalahadia Mission Station: Ladugaon (Odisha)

Glory to God!

By the grace of God, I was able to serve safely in the ministry during the past month. As a translator, I carefully worked on the revision and checking of the books of Judges, Ruth, and 1 Samuel in the Paratext software. In addition, I also worked on assigning titles, author names, and names of musical instruments for the sections from Psalms 91 to 150. Apart from these works, I was also involved in evangelism. I visited three villages, met with my language-speaking community, and shared the gospel with them. They listened carefully to the gospel and believed in it. Therefore, I prayed for them and their families.

The villages I visited were Daspur, Nagbere, and Phairomal. The people I met there were: Manathar, Dhariram, Amrutha, Thelani, Hrusham, Nadham Gopa, Pratik, Madan, Kaustubh, Digam, and Jairani.

On 12.07.2025, I conducted a fasting prayer meeting. In that meeting, we prayed for all the translation ministries of IBT, and also for the cofounder, President, secretary, treasurer, representatives, supporters, staff, and those who are sick. In addition, every Sunday, a worship service is being conducted at my mission field. I humbly request you to pray for my ministry and for my family.

Our Vision & Mission

Our vision is to translate the Bible into all Indian languages that have not been translated yet, making the Word of God available to every community in their mother tongue.

Our mission is to translate, print, and teach the Word of God in all Indian languages that do not have Bible yet. We are committed to sending Bible Translators missionaries across India, language by language, and establishing dedicated "Bible Translator Teams" for each language to ensure accurate and meaningful translation.

FELL ASLEEP IN THE LORD



Mr. S. Chelliah, Senior Representative of IBT, residing at KTC Nagar, Tirunelveli, entered into eternal rest in the Lord on 17th August 2025, at the age of 76.

Mrs. Mahila Collins, Senior Representative of IBT, residing at Rajendra Nagar, Palayamkottai, went to be with the Lord on 01.09.2025, at the age of 54. We pray that the Lord will comfort and grant peace from above to both the bereaved families who are



grieving the loss of these two servants of God. May both families continue to live in such a way that the name of the Lord is glorified, and may they be richly blessed.

- Indian Bible Translators (IBT)

NEED

- 1. When meetings are held in the Meeting Hall of the Coimbatore IBT building, there is a necessity to install a soundproofing system and make necessary modifications to prevent noise from escaping and affecting the nearby residences. Therefore, it is estimated that this work will cost between Rs. 4,50,000 and Rs. 5,00,000. Please pray for supporters to come forward to meet these expenses.
- 2. Promotional staff at Chennai require a two-wheeler. The present two-wheeler is frequently breaking down and maintenance cost is high. We need Rs. 1,10,000/- to purchase a new two wheeler. Kindly pray to get supporters to meet this need.
- 3. The office computer which is used to work with media and website is often gets repaired. To purchase an updated computer requires of Rs. 78,000/- Kindly pray to get supporters to meet this need.

- Treasurer

Indian Bible Translators (IBT)

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- 1. From September 15th to 20th, 12 translators from the states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Karnataka came to the Coimbatore IBT Centre to carry out their translation-related work and checking tasks. To oversee their work and give proper guidance, Mrs. Grija Isaac, an IMS missionary from Odisha, also came. She reviewed the translators' work and gave directions on what they should accomplish in the coming months. Praise the Lord for this! Please pray that each of them will plan their work well and carry it out with dedication.
- 2. Regarding the mental stress, troubles, and physical difficulties currently faced by missionaries, MUT has formed a special team to listen to their concerns and help find solutions. Let us praise the Lord for this. This team has been arranged to personally meet the affected missionaries and work toward resolving their problems. On behalf of IBT, Mr. Sahaya Sweden and

- Mrs. Subitha Sweden have been appointed to this team. They will contact the missionaries serving in IBT through phone calls, listen to their problems, and report them to the MUT office. Based on this, arrangements will be made for personal visits and solutions. Please pray that this ministry will continue without any hindrance.
- Due to heavy rains last month, severe damages occured in many states of North India. Several lakhs of people have been affected, losing their relatives, belongings, and homes and are left in great distress. Pray that the government and all people may wholeheartedly come forward to help them. Also pray for the war between Russia and Ukraine, and Israel and Gaza to be stopped.
- Please pray that the IBT ministry may receive new representatives and dedicated promotional workers with a burden for the work.

Send all your Contributions:

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Announcement for the Readers

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