

## Habakkuk

Aug 20, 2023

### Introduction:

Habakkuk was written about 610 years before Jesus was born.

Habakkuk's name seems to be derived from the Hebrew word meaning "embrace," and may indicate that he wrestled with God. In his book, he comes to grips with some serious problems and lays hold of God by faith when everything in his life seems to be falling apart.

Habakkuk is a prophet of Judah who ministered prior to the exile. He was a contemporary of Zephaniah and Jeremiah. He prophesies at a time when the armies of Babylon are invading Palestine.

His work is different from that of the other prophets, in that it is entirely addressed to God. He is known to be the prophet who questions God, asking the tough questions regarding why, how, and when. It shows that it's okay for us to bring our questions and even our complaints to God.

When will God intervene to punish oppression and expose idolatry?

Why is he delaying his promised kingdom?

Why was there so much evil in the world?

Why do the wicked get away with things?

Habakkuk was told of the impending Babylonian invasion, and he wondered why God would use a wicked nation to punish His people. His book describes three stages in Habakkuk's experience:

Hab 1: Perplexity: faith wavers - Habakkuk's questions;

In the first conversation, he complains of God's apparent lack of concern over Judah's sin.

Hab 2: Perspective: faith watches:

Habakkuk stations himself before God like a watchman (2:1), to await His word.

The Lord replies that He will use the Babylonians to judge Judah. To Habakkuk this only complicates the matter.

In the second conversation he complains of God's apparent lack of concern over the cruelty of the Babylonians, and the Lord answers that He will also judge Babylon for her violence.

He is rewarded with the assurance that God is working out his purpose. It may seem slow from a human point of view, but it will surely come about.

Hab 3: Perseverance: faith worships.

Having his questions answered, he closes with a psalm of trust and triumph in the Lord.

Habakkuk arrives at a position of settled faith. Whatever happens, God has everything under control; He is Lord. This realization gives Habakkuk a surge of confidence and praise.

**The key verse:** Hab 2:4 "the just shall live by his faith."

It takes three New Testament epistles to explain one Old Testament text! It is quoted in:

Rom 1:17; The theme of Romans is "the just" and how to be justified before God.

Gal 3:11; Galatians tells us how the just "shall live."

Heb 10:38. the emphasis in Hebrews is on living "by faith."

**Note:** This book contains the only positive use of the word faith in the Old Testament

## Christ is seen as:

The Judge of Babylon (Rev 17, 19)

The Rewarder of those who diligently seek Him in faith (Heb 10:38; 11:6).

The One who intercedes for the saints.

Rom 8:34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. (Heb 7:25; 9:24)

## Application:

Hab 3:16-19 I heard and my inward parts trembled, At the sound my lips quivered. Decay enters my bones, And in my place I tremble. Because I must wait quietly for the day of distress, For the people to arise who will invade us. 17 Though the fig tree should not blossom And there be no fruit on the vines, Though the yield of the olive should fail And the fields produce no food, Though the flock should be cut off from the fold And there be no cattle in the stalls, 18 Yet I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation. 19 The Lord GOD is my strength, And He has made my feet like hinds' feet, And makes me walk on my high places. For the choir director, on my stringed instruments.

In difficulties, wait patiently (Hab 3:16).

Keep rejoicing in the Lord, find joy (Hab 3:18).

Don't despair when things are tough (Hab 3:17).

Look to Jesus for salvation – a way through the problem (Hab 3:18).

Receive the strength of the Lord (Hab 3:19).

Reach for new heights (Hab 3:19).