

Book of Habakkuk

Study BIBLE



Introduction

Book No	35
Name	Habakkuk
Written By	Habakkuk
Testament	Old
Category	Minor Prophets
Date Written	Approx. 612 - 589 BC
Place Written	Judah
Audience	To the people of Israel
Purpose	To show that God is still in control of the world despite the apparent triumph of evil
History Covered	612 - 589 BC
Chapters	3
Verses	56
Key Verse	O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy. (3:2)
Key People	❖ Habakkuk
Key Places	❖ Babylon ❖ Teman & paran ❖ Judah

Purpose of the Book

Habakkuk was a man who sought answers. Troubled by what he observed, he asked difficult questions. These questions were not merely intellectual exercises or bitter complaints. Habakkuk saw a dying world, and it broke his heart. Why is there evil in the world? Why do the wicked seem to be winning? He boldly and confidently took his complaints directly to God. And God answered with an avalanche of proof and prediction.

The prophet's questions and God's answers are recorded in this book. As we turn the pages, we are immediately confronted with his urgent cries, "How long, O LORD, must I call for help? But you do not listen! 'Violence!' I cry, but you do not come to save" (1:2). In fact, most of the first chapter is devoted to his questions. As chapter two begins, Habakkuk declares that he will wait to hear God's answers to his complaints. Then God begins to speak, telling the prophet to write his answer plainly so that all will see and understand. It may seem, God says, as though the wicked triumph, but eventually they will be judged, and righteousness will prevail. Judgment may not come quickly, but it will come.

God's answers fill chapter two. Then Habakkuk concludes his book with a prayer of triumph. With questions answered and a new understanding of God's power and love, Habakkuk rejoices in who God is and in what he will do. "Yet I will rejoice in the LORD! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation. The Sovereign LORD is my strength! He will make me as surefooted as a deer and bring me safely over the mountains" (3:18-19). Listen to the profound questions that Habakkuk boldly brings to God, and realize that you can also bring your complaints and inquiries to him. Listen to God's answers and rejoice that he is at work in the world and in your life.

Habakkuk reminds us that the question "Why?" can, should, and must be asked. His circumstances demanded that he ask God about the apparent reign of unrighteousness around him. Because he believed in God, he believed that God had an answer to his problem. His questions demonstrated the presence of faith, not the lack of it. For an atheist the question "Why?" has no meaning; for a believer the question "Why?" finds its ultimate answer in God.

Paul the apostle takes the statement of Habakkuk 2:4 and makes it the heart of the gospel. The righteousness of God is attained only through faith, so that the right way

to live is to trust. Habakkuk calls all believers in all times to trust God, to be faithful to Him, and so to find life as God means it to be lived.

The final verses of this prophecy teach that it is possible to rise above circumstances, and even to rejoice in them, by focusing on God who stands above all. Habakkuk does not deny his problems, nor does he treat them lightly; instead, he finds God sufficient in the midst of his troubles.

Overview

- ❖ 35th book of the BIBLE, Old Testament, 8th of the 12 minor prophets and 13th of the 17 prophetic books
- ❖ Habakkuk ministers during the “death throbs” of the nation of Judah.
- ❖ Habakkuk sees the increased wickedness among the people and wants to know why God allows such iniquity to go unpunished.
- ❖ God told Habakkuk that Babylon would be His chastening rod against Judah.
- ❖ God raised up Babylon to chastise Judah.
- ❖ Babylon began to rise in power during the reign of Nabopolassar (625-605 B.C.).
- ❖ In 612 B.C., 96 years after Assyria conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel, Babylon rebelled against Assyria.
- ❖ 16 years later, Babylon overthrew Nineveh, the capital city of Assyria. This takes place:
 - 150 years after Nineveh had been spared at the preaching of Judah.
 - 50 years after the prophecies of Nahum about the fall of Nineveh.
- ❖ By the time of Jehoiakim (18th king of Judah), Babylon had become the undisputed world power.
- ❖ Nabopolassar’s successor, Nebuchadnezzar, came to power in 605 B.C. and carried out a number of successful military campaigns in the west, advancing into Palestine and Egypt.
- ❖ Nebuchadnezzar’s first invasion into Palestine occurred in his first year.
- ❖ He deported some 10,000 captives from the Jerusalem area to Babylon, some 900 miles away.
- ❖ Included in the first group of captives were:
 - Daniel
 - Shadrach
 - Meshach

➤ Abednego

Hebrew Names of GOD used in Habakkuk

❖ JEHOVAH

Revelation of JESUS CHRIST

The terms used by Habakkuk in 3:13 join the idea of salvation with the Lord's Anointed. The Hebrew roots of these words reflect the two names of our Lord: Jesus, meaning "Salvation," and Christ, meaning "the Anointed One." The context here is God's great power manifested in behalf of His people through a Davidic King to bring them deliverance from their enemies. The Messiah came in the fullness of time (2:3; Gal. 4:4), was given the name "Jesus" as a prenatal prophecy of His ministry (Matt. 1:21), and was born "in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

As Habakkuk waits for the answer to his questions, God grants him the gift of a truth that satisfies his unspoken longings as well as provides the solution to his present situation: "The just shall live by his faith" (2:4). The apostle Paul sees this statement of Habakkuk as the foundation stone of the gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16, 17). Christ is the answer to human needs, including cleansing from sin, relationship with God, and hope for the future.

Work of THE HOLY SPIRIT

Though no direct references to the Holy Spirit are found in Habakkuk, there are intimations of His life working in the prophet. As Habakkuk surveys the ruin brought about by the invading armies, he nevertheless expresses an abiding joy that even disaster on so large a scale cannot steal from him, reminding us that "the fruit of the Spirit is . . . joy" (Gal. 5:22).

Also, in Galatians, Paul links the most famous verse from Habakkuk with the reception of the promised Holy Spirit through faith (2:4; Gal. 3:11–14). The righteous person lives by his faith in all aspects of his life, including entering into the life of the Spirit.

Mega Themes of Habakkuk

STRUGGLE AND DOUBT

Habakkuk asked God why the wicked in Judah were not being punished for their sin.

He couldn't understand why a just God would allow such evil to exist. God promised to use the Babylonians to punish Judah. When Habakkuk cried out for answers in his time of struggle, God answered him with words of hope.

God wants us to come to him with our struggles and doubts. But his answers may not be what we expect. God sustains us by revealing himself to us. Trusting him leads to quiet hope, not bitter resignation.

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

Habakkuk asked God why he would use the wicked Babylonians to punish his people. God said that he would also punish the Babylonians after they had fulfilled his purpose.

God is still in control of this world in spite of the apparent triumph of evil. God doesn't overlook sin. One day he will rule the whole earth with perfect justice.

HOPE

God is the Creator; he is all-powerful. He has a plan, and he will carry it out. He will punish sin. He is our strength and our place of safety. We can have confidence that he will love us and guard our relationship with him forever.

Hope means going beyond our unpleasant daily experiences to the joy of knowing God. We live by trusting in him, not by the benefits, happiness, or success we may experience in this life. Our hope comes from God.

Life Lessons in Habakkuk

Truth	Lesson
<p>Growing in Godliness</p> <p>The world would tell us that “the end justifies the means”; however, in God’s kingdom that is not true. That which is obtained through unrighteous and ungodly means is not of the Lord.</p> <p>God calls His people to uphold a standard of godliness in every area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Conduct your business according to godly principles. ❖ Understand that acquiring wealth through evil means is a sin against your soul. ❖ Ask God to strengthen you against the temptation to compromise and to teach you godly business principles. ❖ Understand that a city cannot receive God’s blessing if it is built on sin and

<p>of life, including business deals and financial planning. Walk in God's ways and honor Him with your wealth; He desires to bless you abundantly.</p>	<p>bloodshed. That type of foundation causes the people to labor and gain nothing. Seek the welfare of your city, pray, and ask that God's mercy and forgiveness be poured out there. Ask God to fill the Earth with His glory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Set aside a regular time and place that is holy to the LORD ❖ Spend time listening for HIS WORD as you read, study and meditate on scripture ❖ Be faithful in daily prayer
<p>Cultivating Dynamic Devotion</p> <p>Open, honest, heart-to-heart relationship with God makes our devotion dynamic. Habakkuk's transparent interchange with God models for us a real relationship with the Lord rather than a religious one. God invites us to bring our deepest questions, internal struggles, and turmoil before Him. He welcomes our questions and is able to answer them; however, be prepared that His answers may be different from what you expect.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ask God the honest questions of your heart. ❖ Understand that He can handle them. Draw close to Him through prayer. Ask to gain God's perspective on injustice. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you the deep things of God (1 Cor. 2:10, 11). ❖ Expect the Lord to answer you. Approach God with an open heart, and lay down any preconceived ideas about how He will respond. ❖ Be ready to hear anything He desires to tell you. ❖ Realize that God's ways may sometimes seem contradictory to you. Do not assume your perspective is accurate. Ask the Lord to give you His perspective on every situation. ❖ Learn to look for and eagerly expect God to answer you. Wait as long as necessary for His answer. Write down what God shows you so that when those things happen, they

	will serve as a testimony to His faithfulness.
<p>Pursuing Holiness</p> <p>Our God is awesome. There are times He may answer a prayer, speak to us, or reveal an aspect of Himself to us and we are unable to resist trembling or even shaking at His holiness and power. Habakkuk describes having such a profound encounter with God that it drained his strength and left him speechless. Yet, even greater than his physical response was the infusion of hope and peace he received from such an encounter with the holiness and sovereignty of God.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Understand that there are times we encounter the holiness and sovereign power of God and experience physical manifestations. Habakkuk shook, his lips quivered or tingled, and the strength was drained from his body. When God sovereignly ministers to us in this manner, we are left changed by His touch. ❖ Examine yourself ❖ Ask questions is there anything in my life that hinders my obedience to GOD ❖ Take down any idol in your life by humbling yourself before GOD and by refusing other interests to rule your heart
<p>The Walk of Faith</p> <p>Habakkuk provides a beautiful picture of how to move from doubt to faith, from confusion to understanding, and from fear to hope. He asked genuine questions, waited for God's answers, and accepted them. He put his hope in God and experienced His presence. In faith, he looked beyond his present circumstances to God, placing his hope in God's saving</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Understand that it is acceptable to acknowledge the difficulty of your situation. However, like Habakkuk, focus your attention on God rather than on your circumstances. Remember that circumstances will change, but God remains the same. Put your hope in God's ability to save you; He is present with you in even the most difficult of times. Choose to rejoice in the Lord, regardless of the way you feel. ❖ Trust that He will enable you to overcome (1 Cor. 10:13; Heb. 4:16).

<p>grace and absolute faithfulness. He set his heart and his eyes on God.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Determine to praise and worship and thank GOD for HIS faithfulness, no matter how devastating the circumstances ❖ Look with the eye of faith at GOD's plan for the future
<p>keys to wise living</p> <p>the worldly theory of success that centers on personal power and the amassing of financial riches is a highly deceptive trap. The wise person defines success in the light of GOD's plan for his life. Living in a manner that honors GOD and relies on HIS promises, brings success</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Know that success by the world's measure is a vain pursuit. ❖ Build your house your life and vocation on the rock of GOD's WORD ❖ Plan your life by the wisdom of GOD ❖ Be a success in HIM

Praise Points in Habakkuk

- ❖ Speaking to us (2:2-3)
- ❖ Bringing an end to the ways of the wicked (2:4-20)
- ❖ Saving his people in the past, thereby giving us hope for the future (3:2)
- ❖ Ruling over all the earth (3:12-14)
- ❖ Making us secure and keeping us safe through adverse circumstances (3:17-19).

Worship Insights in Habakkuk

- ❖ God accepts the questions of those who ask with humility and genuine concern (1:2-3, 12-17).
- ❖ Worship recalls God's past acts of salvation and strengthens our confidence in his plans for the future (3:1-16).
- ❖ Although our circumstances may threaten to overwhelm us, we can rest secure in God's care, for he will bring us "safely over the mountains" (3:17-19).

An Outline of Habakkuk

I. Waiting for God's Intervention in History Hab. 1:1-2:1

A. Our Distress Over Our Moral Condition Hab_1:2-4

1. In Our Sensitivity to Wrong Hab_1:2-3
2. In Our Helplessness in the Presence of Wrong Hab_1:3
3. In Our Frustration Over the Loss of Law and Justice Hab_1:4

B. Our Amazement Over the Divine Intervention Hab_1:5-11

1. In His Unbelievable Work Hab_1:5
2. In His Use of Such Unlikely Instruments Hab_1:6-11

C. Our Distress Over God's Use of the Wicked Hab_1:12-17

1. So Contrary to His Name Hab_1:12
2. So Contrary to His Nature Hab_1:12-13
3. So Contrary to His Justice Hab_1:14-17

D. Conclusion Hab_2:1**II. Learning to Live by Faith Hab_2:2-20****A. The Proclamation of Faith Hab_2:2****B. The Implementation of Faith Hab_2:3****C. The Revelation of Faith Hab_2:4-5**

1. The Scope of this Revelation
2. The Principle of the Revelation
3. The Contrast to this Principle

D. The Vindication of Faith Hab_2:6-20

1. Inordinate Greed Hab_2:6-8
2. A Hunger to Dominate Hab_2:9-11
3. Atrocities Hab_2:12-14
4. Debauchery Hab_2:15-17
5. Idolatry Hab_2:18-20

E. Conclusion**III. Explaining God's Presence in History Hab_3:3-15****A. God's Past Actions Proclaim His Coming Hab_3:3-7**

1. The Theophany at Sinai Hab_3:3
 2. The Theophany in all Creation Hab_3:3-4
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3. The Theophany in the Plagues of Egypt [Hab_3:5](#)

4. The Theophany Before the Nations [Hab_3:6](#)

5. The Theophany in the Days of Othniel and Gideon [Hab_3:7](#)

B. God's Future Actions Foretell His Coming [Hab_3:8-15](#)

C. Conclusion

IV. Rejoicing in Tribulation [Hab_3:1-2](#), [Hab_3:16-19](#)

A. Let Us Begin Our Worship in Adoration [Hab_3:2](#)

B. Let Us Focus Our Worship on the Kingdom of God [Hab_3:2](#)

C. Let Us Confess Our Fears in Our Worship [Hab_3:16](#)

D. Let Us Celebrate the Joy of the Lord in Our Worship [Hab_3:17-19](#)

E. Conclusion