

The Book of HABAKKUK

Date: 608 BC Nineveh has fallen and the Babylonians are rising to power.

Theme: Habakkuk is having a conversation with God, and he writes it down. He is honestly talking to God, without bitterness or anger.

Key Verse: 2:4 The Just Shall Live by Faith.

OVERVIEW OF HABAKKUK

Chapter 1

1:1 The burden – oracle – prophesy of Habakkuk. Concerning Judah. Israel fell in 722 BC

1:2-4 **The Prophet's Question to God** **Why? Why? Why?**

How long will I pray for revival and You not listen?

How long will you let this sin continue? How long will you let this go on?

Why do You allow evil to exist?

1:3 Plundering, rioting, strife, contention. Why do you put up with it?

1:4 The law is useless and justice never goes forth. Corrupt court system.

Perversion is not just tolerated, it is celebrated.

People say: "You can't tell me what to do." Relative truth.

"I respect your right to your beliefs, but I believe something different."

God, Why don't you send revival? Some in America are praying for revival.

Less than 10% of the people/churches in America are Evangelical.

In a congregation (your congregation) of 100 people, you may see only 10-20 people seriously walking with the Lord and sharing their faith. That equals 1-2% of America.

Be generous and double that to 4 or 5% of America.

GOD, WHY DON'T YOU DO SOMETHING? Why don't you send revival?

1:5-11 **The Lord's Answer: "I'm not sending revival, I'm sending the Babylonians"**

1:5 I'm going to do something you wouldn't believe if I told you.

1:6 I'm raising up the Chaldeans (Babylonians) They are mean and in a hurry to devour houses and lands.

1:7 They are terrible and dreadful. They make up their own rules and are proud of it.

1:10 They scoff at kings and laugh at fortified cities.

1:11 They do what they want, and they credit their god with their power.

God said "I know who I am dealing with, the Babylonians are wicked and mean."

Like God would say to America today:

I'm not sending revival. I'm sending ISIS, Communist China, Iran

1:12 - 17 **The Prophet's Second Question to God**

1:12-13 You are God, and you have pronounced judgement on your people.

But the Babylonians are worse than Your people.

Why would you let them treat your people that way?

Chapter 2 The Lord's Answer: The Just Shall Live By Faith

2:1 Habakkuk said: I will stand on the wall and wait for an answer.

It's fair to talk to God with sincere questioning, without bitterness and anger.

2:2 Write the vision plain. Large Print Edition Tell it like it is. That he may run who reads it.

2:3 Judgement is coming. Wait for it, but you will not be waiting long.

2:4 Look at the proud, and all the self-centered wickedness in the world.
BUT, "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith."

Don't worry, the just and the righteous shall live (survive) by their faith.
It is quoted 3 times in the New Testament- Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11 and Hebrews 10:38

2:5-17 Woe to the Wicked A List of Sins God will judge Babylon later.

2:5 The wicked won't stay home, always out looking for something but never satisfied

2:7 Excessive debt. Creditors keep loaning money until they own the debtor.

2:12 Woe to those who build a town with bloodshed

2:15 Woe to him who gets his neighbor drunk, to abuse him.

2:18 **The vanity of idols.** What profit is the image carved by it's maker?

2:19 Woe to the one who tells the wood to wake up.

Woe to the one who tells the silent stone, "Arise and teach!"

Even overlaid with gold and silver, they are still dead

Three positive statements in God's pronouncement of judgement

2:4 The just shall live by faith.

2:14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord,
As the waters cover the sea.

2:20 "But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him."

Chapter 3 The Prophet's Prayer Habakkuk ends with a prayer and a song.

3:2 Lord, In Your wrath remember mercy.

3:3-16 Acknowledging God's greatness

3:17-19 A Closing Statement of Faith A Hymn of Faith The Joy of Salvation

3:17 The fig tree may not blossom, No fruit on the vines,
Production of olives may fail, The flock may be cut off,
Though there be no herd in the stalls....

3:18 Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my Salvation.

3:19 The Lord God is my strength!

**Faith does not always understand God's methods,
But faith always trusts God's motives.**

God, You haven't changed my circumstances, but you have changed me. I see your plan.

**When you don't understand what is going on around you,
rejoice in what is going on inside you!**

Job 13:15 Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him!

Job 19:25 I know my Redeemer lives!

When God is all you have, you learn He is enough!

Habakkuk begins with a question mark, and ends with an exclamation point.

**God cannot be happy with where America is today.
Because judgement hasn't happened yet, doesn't mean it will not happen.**

Maybe the key verse should be: 3:2 Lord, In Your wrath remember mercy.