

Bible Snapshots



Habakkuk – Mystery and Providence

Author – Habakkuk (1:1)

Facts

- Habakkuk, the author, means, “embrace.” He is also referred to often as the questioning prophet
- Many compare him to Job because the question he asks is “Why God would allow the wicked to flourish and the righteous to suffer affliction.” For Job the question was personal, while Habakkuk dealt with it on a national level.
- Habakkuk prophesied just before the first siege of Judah by the Babylonians. (2 Chronicles 36:5, 6). Babylon was on its way, but had not yet arrived (1:6; 3:16). This would have been about 65-610 BC. Habakkuk was contemporary with Nahum, Jeremiah and possibly Zephaniah.
- The primary audience is Judah, but there are hints at the woe to come to Babylon

Contents

- The book, to a great degree is a conversation between God and Habakkuk, who speak in the name of the people and between the Habakkuk and the people, where Habakkuk speaks for God. He is a sort of intermediary between the nation and God. Much of the conversation is in reference to the invasion of Babylon, but can be generally applied as well, especially when speaking of the goodness and graciousness of God. Habakkuk wants to know everything. Why God would use a vile nation against his people? Will He Straighten this out? Will he do anything about the wrongs in the world? Why all the injustice?
- The book is prophetic in nature and has 3 chapters with a total of 56 verses.

Prophecy

- The redemptive work of Christ (1:5 with Acts 13:41)

Proving Habakkuk

Among the scrolls found at the Dead Sea in 1947 was a commentary on the first two chapters of Habakkuk.

Christ in Habakkuk

The man who justifies by faith (2:4 with Acts 13:38, 39); The Lord in His temple (2:20)

Key phrase / word / thought

- Why dost thou (1:3) / faith / prayer changes things

Key chapters/verse

- 3 – Habakkuk’s faith / 2:4 “...Just shall live by faith.”

Outline of the book of Habakkuk

- The first prayer and answer (1:1-11)
 - Indictment against Judah and invasion
- The second prayer and answer (1:12-2:20)
- The third prayer and answer (3)
 - Cry for revival
 - Vision of Jehovah
 - Effect on the prophet

Messages – Many of the same questions that Habakkuk asked are questions that many people ask today. Why do bad things happen? The book gives us great insight into God’s providence and long view of our lives and history. He does work all things to good and brings about great change in people of prayer so they can affect great change in this world. Another grand lesson is the encouragement to full trust in God when times are dark and dreary, taking our problems to Him and trusting He will answer. There is no greater power than our God, who asks us to come to Him.