

Book 35: Habakkuk
“...the just shall live by his faith”
– Habakkuk 2:4

Habakkuk: Introduction

- The short book of Habakkuk is unique in that it takes the form of a conversation between the prophet and God.
- The prophet has questions and God provides answers – in the process taking Habakkuk through some of life’s most challenging puzzles.

- Habakkuk lived in a time much like our own. Judah was in the midst of moral decay; the wicked seemed to prosper while the righteous suffered unfairly.
- The prophet asks God, “Why?”
- God’s answer is that He will deal with unrighteous Judah by bringing the armies of Babylon against them.

- Now Habakkuk has a bigger problem: Judah was corrupt, but Babylon is worse. How can God judge His own people by using a nation that is *even more* worthy of judgment?
- God’s answer is that He will later judge Babylon even more severely than He judges Judah now.

- This may not be the answer the prophet wants, but it is the answer God gives.
- The future played out just as God revealed. Babylon conquered Judah, but was later conquered itself.
- The Bible even ends with ultimate blessing for Jerusalem and devastation for Babylon.

- The book of Habakkuk ends with the prophet offering up a psalm or “prayer”.
- He began by wrestling with God.
- He ends by worshiping God, in an attitude of humble submission.

Habakkuk: A Study of the Book

As we travel through this little book, try to map out the journey of Habakkuk’s heart. Look at the following:

- Where was he at the beginning?
- Where is he at the end?
- How did he get from the one place to the other? Consider his thoughts, opinions and emotions along the way.

Habakkuk: Chapter 1

- 1:1-4 First Question: “Why does the evil in Judah seem to go unpunished?”
- 1:5-11 First Answer: “I will punish the evil in Judah by bringing the army of the Chaldeans to devastate the land.”
- 1:12-17 Second Question: “How can you do that God? The Chaldeans are even worse!”

Habakkuk: Chapter 2

Judgment on Babylon and Its Idols

- 2:4 Key verse More on this later.
- 2:14 In the future the knowledge of the Lord will spread all throughout the world. That day is coming soon.
- 2:20 Remember, God always has the final say.

Habakkuk: Chapter 3

The Prophet’s Psalm of Praise

- 3:2 At first Habakkuk wanted to see judgment, now he realizes judgment is near, so he asks God to be merciful.
- 3:17-19 Trust in the midst of trials.
 - *Rejoice* = “to jump for joy”
 - *Joy* = “to spin around, be glad, be joyful”

Habakkuk: A Study of the Book

Now let’s look at our answers regarding the journey of Habakkuk’s heart.

- Where was he at the beginning?
- Where is he at the end?
- How did he get from the one place to the other? Consider his thoughts, opinions and emotions along the way.

Habakkuk 2:4

The Just Shall Live by Faith

- This statement appears three times in the New Testament. See the following passages:
 - Romans 1:16-17
 - Galatians 3:11
 - Hebrews 10:35-38