

THE BOOK OF HABAKKUK

Introduction & Chapters 1 - 3

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INTRODUCTION:

AUTHOR: Habakkuk (name means "embrace"; not much is known of his background)

DATE: 607 BC

PURPOSE:

1. To announce God's intention to punish Judah by the coming deportation to Babylon.
2. To receive God's answer to two primary questions:
 - a. How long will the Lord allow the sin in Judah to continue?
 - b. Why will God use a more wicked people, Babylon, to punish Judah?
3. To predict the invasion of Judah.
4. To predict the doom of the Chaldeans, and offer a hope to Judah.

THE TIME:

1. Habakkuk prophesied during the reign of King Jehoiakim in Judah (see 2 Kings 23:34-24:5 and Jeremiah 22:17).
2. He wrote just before Babylon first invaded Judah in 605 BC.

THE STYLE OF THE BOOK:

1. It is written in the form of "question-answer."
2. Habakkuk raises questions about what is happening or will happen, and God answers.

THE TEACHING OF THE BOOK:

1. Faithfulness is required, and it is the guarantee of permanency.
2. The righteous can have courage even in time of crises (3: 17 -19).

THEME: "The righteous by faith shall live" (compare Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38).

THE BOOK OF HABAKKUK

I. HABAKKUK'S QUESTIONS AND GOD'S ANSWERS, chapters 1 -2.

A. Habakkuk's question to God, 1 : 1-4

Why does God allow wicked practices to continue in Judah?

B. God's answer, 1:5-11

1. God will raise up the Chaldeans (a semitic people who became dominant in Babylon) to punish evil in Judah.
2. They are terrible and dreadful.

C. Habakkuk's second question, 1:12-2:1

Why will God use wicked people to punish Judah?

1. God's holiness cannot allow Him to look on evil.
2. The Chaldeans will treat those of Judah like fish caught in a net.
3. Habakkuk agrees to have patience.

D. God's second answer, 2:2-20

1. God tells Habakkuk to write the message plainly.
2. God shall use wicked Chaldeans to execute His judgment, but then the Chaldeans will be judged.
3. All the earth shall know of God -let all recognize His holiness!

II. HABAKKUK'S PRAISE, 3: 1-19

A. His prayer for compassion in the midst of judgment, vv. 1-3

B. His praise for the power of God, vv. 4- 7

C. His praise for the purpose of God, vv. 8-16

D. His faith in God, vv. 17-19