

INTRODUCTION TO Habakkuk

READ ALONG

07/30 Habakkuk 1-3

WHERE IS IT IN THE BIBLE?

- 32. JONAH
- 33. MICAH
- 34. NAHUM
- 35. **HABAKKUK**
- 36. ZEPHANIAH
- 37. HAGGAI
- 38. ZECHARIAH

MESSAGE

The book of Habakkuk records a conversation between the prophet and God. In this conversation, Habakkuk questions God’s justice and plan for the nation of Israel. God does not rebuke Habakkuk for his questions, nor does He answer them as Habakkuk desired. Instead, God reveals His faithful character, and calls Habakkuk (and the people of Israel) to trust Him and walk by faith even in times of uncertainty (2:4). Habakkuk reminds us that God is always at work, and His plan while often surprising, will result in the earth being filled “with the knowledge of Lord’s glory, as the water covers the sea” (2:14).

KEY THEMES

- **God hears and answers His people.** Twice in the book, Habakkuk complains to God. He complains about the rampant sin in Judah, that God has seemingly let go unpunished (1:1-4), and then complains about God’s plan of using Babylon to discipline Judah. Surprisingly, God never rebukes Habakkuk for questioning Him, but instead graciously answers the complaints.
- **God’s holy character.** The answers God gives to Habakkuk are grounded in His character. Instead of explaining His motives or even the entirety of His plan, God answers Habakkuk, by revealing Himself as a sovereign, just, and trustworthy God.
- **God’s glory.** Habakkuk prophesies of a day that the whole earth will be filled with God’s glory as the waters cover the sea (2:14). This reminds us that God acts on behalf of His glory. Even when his plans do not make sense, we can trust He will be glorified in it.
- **The righteous will live by faith.** This statement found in 2:4 is the key verse of the book. Faith in God, even during trials is presented as the key to life in the book of Habakkuk. The Apostle Paul quotes this verse as evidence that salvation comes by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. (Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11).

BOOK BASICS



DATE
Before 598 BC



TYPE
Prophecy



AUTHOR
Habakkuk

OCCASION

Habakkuk predicts the destruction of Judah, by the Chaldeans (another name for the Babylonians). This destruction happened in phases. Babylon besieged Jerusalem from 598-597 BC and took the many Israelites into captivity, but the city of Jerusalem remained. In 587 or 586 BC Babylon’s king Nebuchadnezzar again attacked Jerusalem, this time destroying the city and the temple. Since Habakkuk predicts the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem, the book was probably written some time before 598 BC.

BASIC STRUCTURE

3 CHAPTERS

