

Habakkuk

"The Just Shall Live by Faith"

Background Information

We literally know nothing about this man that is not revealed in this short book.

His name means "one who embraces."

The book stands out among the prophets in that it does not contain one prophecy (or a series of prophesies), but rather is a discussion between God and the prophet.

Time Covered and Outline

The Chaldeans (sometimes called the neo-Babylonians) are about to overrun Jerusalem as they have other cities and peoples. That historical note puts the book in the late 7th century BC, probably around 620.

The book contains a conversation and then a prayer and follows that outline.

- I. The First Conversation (1:1-11)
 - A. Habakkuk's Complaint (1:1-4)
 - B. God's Response (1:5-11)
- II. The Second Conversation (1:12-2:20)
 - A. Habakkuk's Complaint (1:12-2:1)
 - B. God's Response (2:2-20)
- III. Habakkuk's Trustful Prayer (3)
 - A. Seeking God's Mercy (3:1-2)
 - B. Praising God's Power (3:3-15)
 - C. Trusting in God (3:16-19)

Major Themes

How God Judges

God's Sovereignty

Faith and Faithfulness

Proper Worship

God's Character in Habakkuk

Glorious (2:14)

Wrathful (3:2)

Sovereign (chapters 1-2)

Jesus in Habakkuk

Habakkuk calls God the "God of my salvation" (3:18), pointing forward to the time when God would bring ultimate salvation through Christ.

A reference to God's anointed (3:13) remind us that Jesus would be the true and ultimate Anointed One (Acts 4:27; Hebrews 1:9).

Key Words in Habakkuk

Image (Hebrew *pesel*); "To hew out stone." 2:18

Just (Hebrew *tsaddiyd*); "righteous" or "correct." 2:4

Elsewhere in the World...

The city of Ephesus builds one of the seven wonders of the world: the temple of Artemis.

Elsewhere in Scripture...

Habakkuk is a contemporary of Jeremiah and likely falls during the reign of Josiah (2 Kings 22).