

Series "Fixed On 66"
"Habakkuk"
Book-35

Key Passage: Habakkuk 2:4; 3:17-19

Habakkuk 2 reminds us, that's when we look at things from the outside. Such conclusions are based only on what we can observe: on what we can see. And so, God invites us, in **Habakkuk 2**, to look at things from the inside. **Psalm 73:16-17**

The Author: Habakkuk 1:1 The oracle which Habakkuk the prophet saw. Habakkuk's little book indicates that he knew the Old Testament Scriptures well, was a competent theologian, and had great faith in God. **Habakkuk 3:19**

Some scholars think he may have been a priest who led worship in the temple. If so, then, like **Jeremiah** and **Ezekiel**, he was a priest called to be a prophet, which is a much more difficult ministry.

Habakkuk: *"to embrace" or "to wrestle,"* and in his book, he does both.

He wrestles with God - concerning the problem of how a holy God could use a wicked nation like Babylon to chasten the people of Judah;

"Why do good people suffer, and evil people prosper?" or "Why isn't God answering prayer?" or "When I'm doing my best for the Lord, why do I experience the worst from others?"

He embraces - by faith, he embraces God and clings to His promises.

The prophet's statement, **Habakkuk 2:4 But the righteous will live by his faith.** Is quoted three times in the New Testament (**Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38**).

Romans - is on **the just.**

Galatians - on how they **will live.**

Hebrews - on **"by his faith."**

When Written: About 607 B.C. Habakkuk was a contemporary of Nahum, Zephaniah, and Jeremiah, which places him in the reigns of Josiah (640-609 B.C.) and Jehoiakim (609-598).

Where it was Written: Within the nation of Judah.

Purpose: The time is before the captivity of Judah by the Babylonians. He observes the violence and injustice. He asks the Lord, why are the wicked prospering in the midst of God's people?

Why are the righteous beaten down? Why is God doing nothing and being indifferent? God answers that He is doing something that shocks him in that a people more wicked than Judah, named the Chaldeans, are about to be God's rod of discipline on Judah. **Habakkuk 3:18**

Theme: Habakkuk – *"The Just Shall Live By Faith"*

Key Words: shall 28 times, Lord 16 times, "good as dead" 5 times, "Woe to him" 5 times.

Key Chapter: Habakkuk 3 Habakkuk goes from questioning to confidence and faith in God.

Key Passage: Habakkuk 2:4; 3:17-19

Outline:

1. **Habakkuk 1 The Prophet Wondering And Worrying**
2. **Habakkuk 2 The Prophet Watching And Waiting**
3. **Habakkuk 3 The Prophet Worshiping And Witnessing**

1. Habakkuk 1 The Prophet Wondering And Worrying:

Habakkuk 1:1 The oracle which Habakkuk the prophet saw.

Oracle – Burden "A load, to carry" That as a messenger of God, when God calls us and commissions us, He gives us a burden, a weight of the responsibility of delivering a message to minister to the people.

Habakkuk 1:2-4 God Is Indifferent: Habakkuk 1:2 How long, O LORD, will I call for help, And You will not hear? This is the same words of the Psalmist David, in **Psalm 13:1-2**

The first word, translated as "**call**," simply means "to call for help," but the second word, **cry**, means "to scream, to cry with a loud voice, to cry with a disturbed heart."

Psalm 13:3

If local elders took bribes, or if witnesses lied, the law was "paralyzed, and justice never prevailed."

Habakkuk 1:4 The nation's problems were caused by leaders who wouldn't obey the law.

Habakkuk complained that the religious enthusiasm generated by Josiah's revival (**2 Kings 23**) had not touched the hearts of the majority.

"Delayed Justice is not the denial of Justice!" God will have His way whether we cooperate with Him and His program or not!

Habakkuk 1:5-11 God's Reply: "I Am Working"

Habakkuk 1:5-6

God gave Habakkuk a revelation, not an explanation; for what we always need in times of doubt is a new view of God.

God spoke to Habakkuk in about 621 B.C. The Babylonians (Chaldeans) were a subject people within the Assyrian Empire. In 625 B.C. Nabopolassar took the throne of Babylon and, within two decades, crushed the mighty Assyrians.

Habakkuk 1:7-11

**Habakkuk 1:12-17 God Is Inconsistent:
Habakkuk 1:12-13**

How could a Holy God allow a more sinful, wicked people to overcome God's people? God will deal with this answer in **Habakkuk 2**.

Habakkuk 1:14-17

2. Habakkuk 2 The Prophet Watching And Waiting

Habakkuk 2:1-3 Write God's Vision: Habakkuk 2:1 Habakkuk had set himself to wait for God's answer. **Colossians 4:2**

Habakkuk 2:2-3

Habakkuk 2:4-5 Trust God's Word: Habakkuk 2:4 But the righteous will live by his faith.

(vv. 4-5) The Wicked Man Never Has Enough: The wicked man is doomed to dissatisfaction.

Habakkuk 2:6-20 Declare God's Judgment: 5 Groups Called Out!

(1) Habakkuk 2:6-8 Woe To The Selfish: Habakkuk 2:6-8

The Wicked Are Isolated (vv. 6–8) The wicked man makes his gains at the expense of others.

(2) Habakkuk 2:9-11 Woe To The Covetous: Habakkuk 2:9

The Wicked Feel Insecure: Driven by their insecurity the wicked concentrate on material gain. They count on wealth or power to set their “nest on high.”

Habakkuk 2:10-11

(3) Habakkuk 2:12-14 Woe To The Exploiters: Habakkuk 2:12-13

The Wicked Man’s Hopes Will Be Dashed: The wicked man builds monuments to his achievements, even as Herod built cities to preserve his name. God intends this world to be filled with knowledge of Him, not with monuments to murderers.

**Habakkuk 2:14 “God’s Glory Will Fill The Earth”
Habakkuk 2:14**

(4) Habakkuk 2:15-17 Woe To The Drunkards: Habakkuk 2:15-17

The Wicked Will Be Repaid In Kind:

Never suppose that the wicked really succeed. An evil empire or an evil person may appear to prosper.

(5) Habakkuk 2:18-20 Woe To The Idolaters: Habakkuk 2:18-19

**Habakkuk 2:20 “God Is Still On His Throne” Habakkuk 2:20
“But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him.”**

Note that in Habakkuk’s vision God announces He **“is” in His holy temple.** There is a great day coming, a day of final judgment. But never assume that God is powerless or inactive now.

Yet, seeing God in His holy temple, the prophet was confronted with the fact that judgment day for Judah—his own land—was at hand!

3. Habakkuk 3 The Prophet Worshiping And Witnessing

Habakkuk 3:1-2 He Prays To God: Habakkuk 3:1-2

In wrath remember mercy. This verse finds its fulfillment during the tribulation when God is pouring out His just judgment, and God gives mercy. **Revelation 6-19**

wrath - "*anger*" The Greek word *Orge* - which speaks of a settled abiding condition; it is controlled. It is perfect, settled, and controlled.

mercy - *is not getting what I deserve.*

Habakkuk 3:3-15 He Ponders God's Ways: (3 Visions)

(vv. 3-7) Vision Number #1 Habakkuk saw, not the plague that devastated the Exodus generation on the plains of Moab (**Numbers 25**), but God Himself, burning in anger, His elemental power shaking the foundations of the earth, coming from Sinai to execute the judgment that Law required.

Habakkuk 3:3-7

(vv. 8-10) Vision Number #2 Habakkuk saw an enraged God sweeping earth clean by the Genesis Flood (vv. 8-10).

Habakkuk 3:8-10

(vv. 11-15) Vision Number #3 Habakkuk watched as God "in wrath" came as a mighty warrior to overthrow Egypt's armies and deliver His people from slavery (vv. 11-15).

Habakkuk 3:11-15

Habakkuk 3:16-19 He Praises God: Habakkuk 3:16 I heard and my inward parts trembled, At the sound my lips quivered. Decay enters my bones, And in my place I tremble. At last, Habakkuk understood. God had satisfied his doubts. Now God was ready to do a deeper work in Habakkuk's heart.

You see, belief is not simply an intellectual exercise. Faith is not built on intellect alone. The prophet finally realized that he would be among those who experienced the awful devastation of warfare.

Because I must wait quietly for the day of distress, For the people to arise who will invade us.

Habakkuk 3:17-18

This is one of the greatest experiences of the child of God. When the revelation of God comes on you, His peace floods your soul.

Habakkuk 3:19

When a nation is judged for its sins, the righteous suffer with the wicked.

Application:

1. Faith Grows Fastest When Challenged. What Habakkuk Teaches Us Is That Through Our Doubts And Suffering, Our Faith Can And Will Be Perfected.
2. Habakkuk, Looking At The Corruption In His Society, Wondered How God Could Permit Judah To Continue In Such A State. The Answer, Is That God Would Not Permit An Unjust Society To Represent Him. There May Well Be A Cost In Taking A Stand For Justice. But There Is An Even Greater Cost If We Fail To Do So.
3. Delayed Justice Is Not The Denial Of Justice! God Will Have His Way Whether We Cooperate With Him And His Program Or Not.
4. Never Suppose That The Wicked Really Succeed. An Evil Empire Or An Evil Person May Appear To Prosper. But Beyond The Trappings Of Success, Buried Deep Within The Heart Of The Wicked, Is A Misery, An Emptiness, A Fear, That Is The Mark Of The Present Judgment Of The God Too Holy To Look On Evil.