

## Habakkuk

Nothing is known about Habakkuk other than what we read in verse 1, he is a prophet. However, due to the nature of the book, it seems likely he may have been a prophet working in the temple in Jerusalem. The book appears to have been written shortly after Nahum & before the exile.

(Read verses 2-4) What is Habakkuk's complaint?

Injustice is everywhere & God doesn't appear to be acting.  
What should we do when we feel we are in these situations?  
Cry out to God, just as David did (Psa 13:1-2).

Jeremiah tells us why conditions are so bad (Jer 22:15-17).

Jehoiakim's father, Josiah, had ruled justly & the people had prospered because of it. His son, Shallum, was chosen to rule after him. But the Egyptian king took him captive & took him to Egypt. His brother, Jehoiakim was put on the throne instead &, as we read in Jeremiah, he oppressed his people & allowed injustice to spread.

(Read verses 5-11) Who is speaking? God

What is God addressing? His answer to Habakkuk's complaint  
We can read about God's decision against Assyria (Isa 10:5-7, 12-16).  
What does it mean, in verse 7, "they are a law to themselves"?

They did whatever seemed good to them & showed no restraint when invading other people's territory.

What does verse 10 show us about the Babylonians?

They are arrogant & show no respect for anyone.

The Babylonians likely had a fearsome reputation before this prophecy, but now even God is describing them as mighty & terrible. How do you think the Israelites would have felt about knowing the Babylonians would take control of the region?



(Read 12-17) Habakkuk is speaking again, bringing another complaint before the Lord. Before he brings his complaint, he voices verse 12.

What is he expressing in verse 12?

This is an affirmation of his faith in God. He knows God is in control, even when things seem bad.

Who is he saying God has appointed & ordained?

The Babylonians. Apparently some amount of time has passed between the first complaint & this second complaint.

How would you sum up the question Habakkuk is asking in verse 13?

The Babylonians you have sent are more oppressive & brutal than the Judean leaders being punished. If you are in charge of this, ~~should~~ shouldn't your purpose reflect your own righteousness? Instead, things are worse!

In verses 14-15, Habakkuk describes the Babylonian's conquest like fishermen dragging a net. The sea is swept clean & the fish are powerless to resist it.

In verse 16, why are they sacrificing to their nets?

They attribute their victories & successes to themselves & their tools rather than to God.

What is Habakkuk asking in verse 17?

Will the Babylonians be allowed to go on killing & destroying forever.

## Chapter 2

(Read 1) What is Habakkuk demonstrating in this verse?

He has faith God will answer him & he must be patient & watchful.

(Read verses 2-4) What is being revealed to Habakkuk?

The end times.



How should we interpret "though it lingers... it will not delay"?  
It is coming in God's time, not ours. It will come when it is supposed to.

(Read verse 5) Who is the enemy being described here?  
Babylonians

Now we move to a series of 5 woes directed at the Babylonians.

1<sup>st</sup> Woe (Read verses 6-8) What is being warned here?

Ill-gotten gain is short lived. Eye for an eye, what you have done to others will be done to you.

2<sup>nd</sup> Woe (Read verses 9-11) What is being warned here?

Through violence & oppression, the Babylonians have built their empire & believe themselves to be impenetrable. However, the supporting structure, of their house, or empire, are in tension & will not last.

3<sup>rd</sup> Woe (Read verses 12-14) What is this woe warning of?

Babylon has been built by killing, destruction & forced labor. But everything they have built will be destroyed & burned by the nation who conquers the Babylonians.

4<sup>th</sup> Woe (Read verses 15-17) What is the drunkenness & nakedness referring to?

The cup given to the neighbor is the lot or fortune the conqueror gives to the nation it is oppressing. Troops were allowed to roam conquered nations unchecked, plundering, killing & raping at will.

Verse 17 shows us crimes against people are not the only wrong the Babylonians are charged with. What else have they done?  
Destroyed land & trees, displaced or killed animals.

5<sup>th</sup> Woe (Read verses 18-19) Who is being addressed? All idol worshippers  
What is being warned? Faith in wood & stone is folly.



### Chapter 3

(Read verses 1-2) What is Habakkuk expressing in this prayer?  
Faith in God's power & hope for the future that God will continue His works.

(Read verses 3-7) Do these verses answer Habakkuk's prayer? If so, how?  
Yes, this portrays God approaching.

Why is the recording of reactions to God's presence on Earth significant?  
Because we are unable to see God, these reactions allow us to see the evidence of His presence.

(Read verses 8-12) What is the meaning of Habakkuk's question in verse 8?  
Nature is reacting to God's presence, but God is coming for one purpose, to punish the Assyrians.

In verse 10, God is using water to defeat the enemy. Why would this be significant to the Judeans?  
It recalls the defeat of the Egyptians during the exodus.

Verse 11 recalls the Israelites victory over the Amorites (Jos 10:12-14).  
What is the meaning intended with putting this verse here?  
God is fighting for the Israelites.

(Read verses 13-15) The purpose of God's advance is declared here.  
What is that purpose?  
The deliverance of His people.

Who is God's anointed one? Hint: (1 Sam 2:10) (2 Sam 1:14-15) (Psa 84:9)  
The king of Judah

What is the symbolism of verse 15?  
The sea is the symbol of chaos & though it is hostile, God is all-powerful & brings order to chaos.

(Read verses 16-19) Habakkuk seems to be experiencing a great deal of fear & anxiety. In spite of this, what is his mindset? (verse 16)

Trust in God. God has answered his prayer & now he waits for its fulfillment.

What is the meaning of verses 17-18?

Though things are looking bad for now, God will prevail.