

Wycliffe Associates

Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide

Habakkuk

1:1-4	2
1:5-11	3
1:12-17	4
2:1-20	5
3:1-13	7
3:16-19	9

1:1-4

Background: Other prophets spoke against Israel sinning and failing to obey Yahweh. But Habakkuk questioned Yahweh about the things he did. Yahweh said he would punish the people of Judah by sending the Babylonian army. The Babylonians were referred to as Chaldeans in the book. Habakkuk complained because the Babylonians were more wicked than the people of Judah. Yahweh assured Habakkuk that he would also punish the Babylonians.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Habakkuk complained to Yahweh. [1:2]
- ☐ People were doing wicked things and there was no real justice. [1:2-3]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Why did Habakkuk cry out for help? [1:2]
He cried out because of the violent things people were doing.
2. What did Habakkuk think about Yahweh? [1:2]
He thought that Yahweh was not listening to him or saving him.
3. What did Habakkuk see? [1:3]
Habakkuk saw destruction, violence, fighting and quarreling.
4. What kind of justice was going on? [1:4]
Unfair justice was happening.

Comment Section:

1:5-11

Background: Verse 6 speaks of the Chaldeans. They were probably the people who ruled Babylon.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Yahweh told Habakkuk that he would see the Chaldeans march through the land to seize dwellings. [1:5-6]
- ☐ The Chaldeans were terrifying and fearsome with horses that were faster than leopards, quicker than wolves. [1:7-8]
- ☐ The Chaldeans would ridicule other kings and rulers as they seized their land. [1:10]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Yahweh tell Habakkuk that would astonish him? [1:5-6]
Yahweh said that Habakkuk would see the Chaldeans march through the land to seize dwellings.
2. What kind of people were the Chaldeans? [1:7]
The Chaldeans were terrifying and fearsome.
3. What did he write about the Chaldean's horses? [1:8]
He said they were faster than leopards and quicker than wolves.
4. What did the Chaldeans gather? [1:9]
The Chaldeans gathered captives like sand.
5. What do you think it meant that they gathered captives like sand?
Perhaps it meant that they gathered many captives like many grains of sand or that they gathered captives as easily as one picks up a handful of sand.
6. What was the Chaldeans' attitude toward other kings and rulers? [1:10]
The Chaldeans mocked other kings and rulers and their strongholds.
7. What was the Chaldeans god? [1:10]
Their own might was their god.

Comment Section:

1:12-17

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Habakkuk knew that Yahweh had ordained the Chaldeans for judgment. [1:12]
- ☐ Habakkuk wondered why Yahweh allowed the Chaldeans to do so much evil. [1:13-17]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Who ordained that the Chaldeans came and brought judgment? [1:12]
Yahweh ordained that the Chaldeans came and brought judgment.
2. What titles did Habakkuk use for Yahweh? [1:12]
Habakkuk used the titles "my God," "my Holy One," and "Rock" for Yahweh.
3. What complaint did Habakkuk make to Yahweh? [1:13]
Habakkuk complained that Yahweh looked favorably on people who betrayed them, and that Yahweh was silent while the wicked swallowed up those more righteous.
4. What did Habakkuk say God had made people to be like? [1:14]
He said that God had made people to be like fish and like creeping things that have no ruler.
5. How do you think the enemy was like someone who catches fish?
The enemy captured people and took them away.
6. What do you think it meant that the Chaldeans sacrificed and burnt incense to their fishnets? [1:16]
They probably worshipped the weapons by which they achieved their victories and stole many things.
7. What did Habakkuk think the enemy might do? [1:17]
He thought they might continually kill the people of the nations.

Comment Section:

2:1-20

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Habakkuk waited for Yahweh to answer his complaint. [2:1]
- ☐ Yahweh answered Habakkuk and told him to write the vision on tablets. [2:2]
- ☐ Yahweh said that the righteous will live by faith. [2:4]
- ☐ Yahweh declared a woe against the one who built a city with blood and iniquity. [2:12]
- ☐ Yahweh was in his holy temple, and all must be silent before him. [2:20]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. For what was Habakkuk watching carefully? [2:1]
Habakkuk watched carefully to see what Yahweh would say to him.
2. What did Yahweh tell Habakkuk to do with the vision? [2:2]
Yahweh told Habakkuk to record the vision upon tablets.
3. What assurance did Yahweh give Habakkuk about this vision concerning the future? [2:3]
Yahweh assured Habakkuk that this vision would certainly happen.
4. What did Yahweh say about righteous people? [2:4]
Yahweh said that the righteous would live by his faith.
5. How was the arrogant man like death? [2:5]
He was never satisfied.
6. Who would terrible things happen to? [2:6]
Terrible things would happen to the one who took more and more of what was not his.
7. What did Yahweh say would happen to the one who plundered many nations? [2:8]
Yahweh said that the remnant of the people would plunder him.
8. Who did Yahweh say bad things will happen to? [2:9]
Bad things will happen to the one who used violence to gain riches for his house.
9. How did the one who gained riches for his house bring shame to his house? [2:10]
He did it by killing many people.
10. What did Yahweh say would cry out because of the shame and sin? [2:10-11]
Yahweh said the stones of the house would cry out because of the shame and sin.

Habakkuk 2:1-20 continued

11. Who did Yahweh say terrible things would happen to? [2:12]
Yahweh said that terrible things would happen to the one who built a city with blood and iniquity.
12. What do you think it meant to build a city with blood?
Perhaps it meant to kill people or to treat people brutally in order to build the city.
13. What do you think would happen to the things the nations worked so hard for? [2:13]
They would burn up in fire.
14. What did Yahweh promise would happen in the land? [2:14]
Yahweh promised that the land would be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh.
15. Who did Yahweh say terrible things would happen to? [2:15]
Terrible things would happen to the one who made his captives drunk so he could look at their nakedness.
16. How would the one who made his captives drunk be filled with shame? [2:16]
He would drink from the cup in Yahweh's hand and show his own nakedness.
17. What would happen as a result of the violence in Lebanon? [2:17]
The violence done by the Chaldeans would overwhelm them.
18. Why was there no profit in a carved image or a cast metal figure? [2:18]
There was no profit in them because people made them, and they were worthless idols.
19. What did Yahweh say about why an idol did not teach? [2:19]
An idol did not even breathe.
20. What must all the people in the land do before Yahweh, who is in his holy temple? [2:20]
All must be silent before Yahweh.

Comment Section:

3:1-13

Background: Chapter 3 was the prayer of Habakkuk. In this passage, he asked Yahweh to be compassionate as he brought judgment.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Habakkuk asked Yahweh to remember compassion in his wrath. [3:2]
- ☐ Yahweh sent disease and shook the nations. [3:5-6]
- ☐ Yahweh went out to save his people. [3:13]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Having heard Yahweh's report, how did Habakkuk feel? [3:2]
Habakkuk was afraid.
2. What did Habakkuk want Yahweh to make known? [3:2]
He wanted Yahweh to make his work known. He wanted Yahweh to do great works so that people would see them.
3. What did Habakkuk ask Yahweh to remember? [3:2]
Habakkuk asked Yahweh to remember to have compassion even though he was very angry.
4. Where did God come from to display his glory? [3:3]
He came from Teman and Paran to display his glory.
5. How did Habakkuk describe the glory of God? [3:3-4]
His glory covered the heavens and his brightness was like the light.
6. When God came, what went before and after him? [3:5]
When God came, deadly disease went before him and plague came after him.
7. What did Yahweh do to the nations? [3:6]
Yahweh shook the nations.
8. What questions did Habakkuk ask about Yahweh riding on horses and victorious chariots? [3:8]
He asked if Yahweh was angry at the rivers and the seas.
9. How did Yahweh feel as he marched through the earth, and why did he go through the earth? [3:12-13]
He felt very angry, and he went to save his people and the one he had anointed.

Habakkuk 3:1-13 continued

10. Who did Yahweh shatter in his indignation? [3:12-13]

Yahweh shattered the head of the house of the wicked. This meant that he struck down the leader of the wicked nation.

Comment Section:

3:16-19

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Habakkuk wrote that he would wait for the day of distress to come on the people who invaded them. [3:16]
- ☐ Habakkuk said that despite hardship, he would rejoice in the God of his salvation. [3:18]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What was Habakkuk quietly waiting for? [3:16]
Habakkuk was quietly waiting for the day of distress to come upon the people who invaded Yahweh's people.
2. What hardships would the people of Yahweh suffer? [3:17]
The fig trees, vines, and olive trees would not produce fruit, the fields would yield no food, and there would be no livestock.
3. Despite the hardship, what would Habakkuk do? [3:18]
Habakkuk would rejoice in the God of his salvation.
4. What did Habakkuk say his feet were like? [3:19]
Habakkuk's feet were like the feet of a deer.
5. What did Yahweh enable Habakkuk to do with feet like a deer's feet? [3:19]
He enabled Habakkuk to walk on high places.
6. What do you think Habakkuk meant about Yahweh doing these things for him? [3:19]
Perhaps he meant that Yahweh was helping him to be strong in very difficult times. Perhaps he meant that Yahweh made him confident and comforted him.

Comment Section: