

Habakkuk

Introduction

Habakkuk is our tenth prophet, and this book is unique in that all of the other prophets spoke to men on behalf of God while Habakkuk spoke directly to God on behalf of men. The book is written just before the Babylonians attacked and destroyed Jerusalem (1:6). Habakkuk could not understand why a nation as wicked as Babylon should conquer a nation like Judah, which with all its sins was still not as evil as Babylon. Habakkuk has been called the Job of the prophets. However, while Job addresses personal suffering, Habakkuk addresses national suffering. This book opens in darkness and closes in light. It opens with a question mark and closes with an exclamation point.

Key Chapter – 3 – Habakkuk's faith

Key Word – Faith (Found 47 times)

Key Verse – *"The just shall live by faith" 2:4*

Structure/Outline:

Chapter 1 – The Struggle of Faith

Chapter 2 – The Life of Faith

Chapter 3 – The Song of Faith

Key Theme - Questioning God

The Hard Reality of Habakkuk is that sometimes the plan of God can only be accomplished with painful experiences

1. The struggle of faith (Chapter 1)

- Does God hear? (1:2a)
- Does God care? (1:2b)
- Where is God's power? (1:3)
- Where is God's Word? (1:4a)
- Will God show that He is just? (1:4b)

2. The life of faith (Chapter 2) – How do you live by faith?

– This is the key verse in the entire book and is quoted 3 times in the New Testament

- Listen to the truth of God (2:2)
- Lean on the timing of God (2:3)
- Live with your trust in God (2:4)

- For your salvation (Romans 1:16-17, Galatians 3:11)
- In the middle of your suffering – (Hebrews 10:38)
- Look forward to the triumph of God (2:5-20)
 - He will show His glory (2:14)
 - We will stand in awe (2:20)

3. The song of faith (Chapter 3)

- God is awesome. (3:2, also Job 42)
- God is full of wrath and mercy (3:2b)
- God has power over all things (3:4-11)
- God is the protector of His people. (3:12)
- God is the deliverer of His people (3:14-16)
- God is our satisfaction (3:18a) – *“Yet I will rejoice in the LORD”*
- God is our strength (3:18b) – *“The Lord God is my strength”*
- God is our victory (3:19) – *“He will me walk on my high hills”*

Consider our initial point – Sometimes the plan of God can only be accomplished with painful experiences. The truth was NEVER on display more clearly when Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, was nailed to a cross to pay for crimes He did not commit.

The Comforting Reality of the Cross is that God uses His Son’s suffering to accomplish His people’s salvation.

- The pain of Jesus brings us peace.
- The death of Jesus brings us life.
- Because of Christ’s death on the cross and resurrection from the grave, we know our suffering is temporary.

Amazing Love

I’m forgiven, because You were forsaken
 I’m accepted, You were condemned
 I’m alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
 Because You died and rose again!

Amazing Love, How can it be
 That you my King should die for me
 Amazing Love, I know it’s true
 In all I do, I will honor You