

Habakkuk
Judgment of
Judah and Babylon

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See also: Habakkuk Briefing by Tod Kennedy

Theme

- Judgment of Judah and Babylon
 - First God will use the Chaldeans (Babylonians) to punish Judah for their wickedness
 - Then God will deal with Babylon for their many injustices (looting, violence, bloodshed)

The Name “Habakkuk”

- Appears in the Hebrew Bible twice
 - 1:1; 3:1
- The etymology of the name תְּבַקֹּק is not clear and its form has no parallel in Hebrew
 - The name is possibly related to the Hebrew root תִּבַּק meaning "embrace"

Date and Setting

- Likely after Josiah died in 609 BC and before Nebuchadnezzar attacked Jerusalem in 605 BC
- The Babylonians defeated, destroyed and exiled Judah between 605 and 586 BC
- God revealed to Habakkuk he would bring the Babylonians upon Judah as divine punishment for her idolatry, sin and rebellion

Key Words & Phrases

- **Evil/Wicked/wickedness** (6 times)
 - 1:4, 13; 2:9; 3:13
- **Woe** (5 times)
 - 2:6, 9, 12, 15, 19
- **Glory** (4 times)
 - 2:14, 16; 3:3
- **Salvation** (4 times)
 - 3:8, 13, 18

Verses to Remember

- 1:5
 - Acts 13:40-41
- 1:6
- 2:4 (obedient faith—Rom. 1:5; 16:26)
 - Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38
- 2:15
- 2:20

Outline

Chs. 1-2: Habakkuk Asks; God Answers

- Habakkuk asks how long God will allow Judah's sin (1:1-4)
- God answers that he is raising up the Chaldeans to judge Judah (1:5-11)
- How can God use the more wicked Chaldeans to judge Judah (1:12-2:1)?
- God answers with five woes against the Babylonians (2:2-20)

Ch. 3: Habakkuk's Prayer of Praise

Outline by Chapter

Ch. 1: Habakkuk's two questions and
God's first answer

Ch. 2: God's second answer

Ch. 3: Habakkuk's prayer of praise

Ch. 1: Two Questions; God's First Answer

- How long must he cry out for justice in Judah due to violence, iniquity, wickedness, destruction, strife, contention and perversion of justice (1:1-4)?
- God will raise up the Chaldeans (1:6)
 - Fierce, dreaded, violent (1:7-11)
- How can God use such wicked people to judge Judah (1:12-17)?

Ch 2: God's Second Answer

- After Habakkuk finished his condemnation of Babylon, he waited for God's answer (2:1)
- Habakkuk was to write God's answer so that people can read the message and obey it—escape the coming danger (2:2)
- The Babylonians are proud and controlled by sin, but the righteous Hebrew follows God's Word—lives by faith (2:4)

Ch 2: God's Second Answer

- God gives 5 woes against the Chaldeans
 - Woe 1 (2:5-8): Proud people who charge unjust interest rates
 - Woe 2 (2:9-11): Unjust gain
 - Woe 3 (2:12-14): Bloodshed and violence are fuel for the fire
 - Woe 4 (2:15-17): What goes around comes around
 - Woe 5 (2:18-20): Their idols versus God

Ch. 3: Prayer of Praise

- Praise in view of coming judgment on Babylon
- He pleads that the LORD will **revive** his work, **reveal** his work and **remember** mercy (3:2)
- Habakkuk praises God's glory and works that were done during the Exodus (3:3-7)
- Nature revered God as he delivered (3:8-15)
- Waiting and rejoicing for God's deliverances no matter how bad the immediate future will be (3:19)

Lessons We Can Learn

- God does things according to his own timing
 - He chose the time and the way to judge Judah and Babylon and works in our lives according to his timing (Ps. 31:14-15)
- God judges sin
 - God will not allow national sin or personal sin to continue indefinitely
 - Sin always loses
 - The morality of a nation always matter

Lessons We Can Learn

- Faithful living (before and during crisis)
 - Living by faith—obeying God’s Word (2:4; 2 Cor. 5:7—**“Walk/live by faith”**)
- Actions for daily living (3:2-19)
 - Remember God's revelation
 - Pray for God to revive his work
 - Wait in faithfulness for God's deliverance
 - Rejoice in the Lord no matter the situation—he is our salvation and strength (Phil. 4:4)

Trivia

Can you fill in the blanks?

Though the ____ tree may not blossom,

Nor _____ be on the vines;

Though the labor of the _____ may fail,

And the _____ yield no food;

Though the _____ may be cut off from the fold,

And there be no _____ in the stalls—

Yet I will _____ in the Lord,

I will be joyful in the God of my salvation.

3:17-18

Memory Verse Review (Amos—Nahum)

- Amos 3:3—“Can two...”
- Obad. 3a—“The pride...”
- Jonah 3:2b—“Preach to it...”
- Micah 7:18a—“Who is...”
- Nahum 1:3a—“The Lord is...”

Memory Verse for Habakkuk

2:4b

“The just shall live by his faith (faithfulness)”