

Through the Bible Course

**November 10, 1947**

**Habakkuk**

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Key Word: Faith

Key Verse: 3:18

Time: Habakkuk was a contemporary of Jeremiah. He wrote about 612-598 BC when the Chaldeans (Babylonia) were rising to power.

Purpose: The prophet was perplexed by the evil which was prevalent in Judah but questioned the method God was using to punish them. These questions he took to God and we have in this short book a dialogue between the prophet and God in which God answers his questions to the entire satisfaction of the prophet.

- I. Chapter 1:1-4 – The prophet’s perplexity in view of sins of Judah and God’s silence
  1. Verses 2, 3 – He beholds violence on all hands and cries but there seems to be no answer from God.
  2. Verse 4 – There is no respect for law of God and the wicked overrule the righteous.
  3. His difficulty why God permits evil.
- II. Chapter 1:5-11 – Jehovah’s answer to prophet’s perplexity
  1. Verse 5 – God will work a work in his days.
  2. Verses 6-11 – Here have most graphic description of character and conquest of Chaldeans.
- III. Chapter 1:12-2:1 – This raises moral problem for the prophet
  1. Verse 12 – Hast ordained Judah for judgment and correction, but why use Chaldeans?
  2. Verses 13-17 – Why would God allow less righteous to punish more righteous?
  3. Chapter 2 verse 1 – Habakkuk climbs watchtower to await answer of God.
- IV. Chapter 2:2-4 – God’s reply
  1. Verse 2 – Showed him a vision and commanded to write
  2. Verse 3 – Vision for future
  3. Verse 4 – Man needs faith
    - a. Future belongs to those who have faith because they will be kept in life and eternity – Chaldeans are self-centered so have no future.
- V. Chapter 2:5-20 – Series of five woes
  1. Verses 5-8 – Upon those who lust for conquests to be used selfishly
    - a. Verse 8 – retribution shall come to them
  2. Verses 9-11 – Woes to covetous

3. Verses 12-14 – Woe to those who practice violence
4. Verses 15-17 – Woe to those who degrade others
5. Verses 18-20 – Woe to those who turn to idols

VI. Chapter 3 – A prayer hymn

1. Verse 2 – Prays for revival of His work
2. Verses 3-15 – Here we have a resume of God's past dealings in great power with Israel
  - a. Prayer is that God will revive His work
3. Verses 16-19 – The faith of the prophet
  - a. Verse 16 – consciousness of greatness of God at first produced fear
  - b. Verses 17, 18 – then came quiet calm even if he should face tribulation for he knows God will not forsake him
  - c. Verse 19 – He concludes with unbounded confidence in God

Three Lessons from Book:

1. The fact of divine discipline – the riddle of Old Testament is “not survival of the fittest but the suffering of the best.”
2. The fact that evil is self-destructive – this is found in five woes.
3. The fact that faith is the condition of life.