

# HABAKKUK

Habakkuk the book was written by the prophet Habakkuk sometime shortly before 605 B.C., and we know this because the book speaks to the coming invasion of Judah by Babylon (which happened in 605 BC). We don't know much about the prophet, however, other than we was a professional prophet. This indicated he likely trained and/or served in a religious leadership position in Judah.

It' is a short but profound book found in the Old Testament, nestled among the Twelve Minor Prophets. Comprising only three chapters, this book presents a unique dialogue between the prophet Habakkuk and God, exploring themes of faith, justice, and God's sovereignty in the midst of uncertainty.

The story unfolds during a time of political and moral turmoil in the kingdom of Judah. Habakkuk, the prophet, is burdened by the rampant injustice, violence, and spiritual decay he witnesses among his people. He cries out to God, questioning why He seems inactive in the face of such wickedness and suffering.

In response to Habakkuk's questions and concerns, God reveals His divine plan. He informs the prophet that He will raise up the Babylonians, a fierce and ruthless nation, to bring judgment upon Judah. This revelation shocks Habakkuk, leading him to question the justice in God's decision to use a nation even more wicked than Judah as an instrument of punishment.

The heart of the book lies in the dialogue between Habakkuk and God. Habakkuk initially struggles with the tension between God's goodness and the harsh means He plans to employ. Yet, as he wrestles with his doubts, he comes to a place of profound trust and surrender. This transformation is captured in the famous verse: "The righteous shall live by his faith" (Habakkuk 2:4), which later becomes a key theological concept in the New Testament.

## **HABAKKUK (CONT.)**

God assures Habakkuk that, in the end, justice will prevail. He reminds him that the Babylonians will not escape divine judgment for their arrogance and cruelty. God's overarching plan includes redemption and restoration for His people, and He encourages Habakkuk to patiently await the fulfillment of His promises.

The book concludes with a beautiful prayer of surrender and worship by Habakkuk. He acknowledges God's sovereignty and power, even in the face of uncertainties and difficulties. Despite the impending challenges, Habakkuk places his trust in God and declares his willingness to rejoice in the Lord.

### **What We Can Learn**

Habakkuk teaches profound lessons about faith, humility, and the mysterious ways of God. It offers comfort to those facing uncertainty and hardship, reminding them that God's plans are ultimately for good, even when they may not fully understand His ways. The book's relevance extends beyond its historical context, speaking to the human experience of grappling with doubt and finding hope in the midst of trials. Ultimately it's ok to ask questions but we must do so with respect to His authority. Let us be still before the Lord and trust ALL of His ways.

### **Memory Verse**

*"Look among the nations, and see: wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told."* Habakkuk 1:5 (ESV)