

HABAKKUK

1. TITLES:

- A. Habakkuk = embrace of love, wrestler
- B. The Book of Faith

2. AUTHOR:

Written by Habakkuk, the prophet of Faith, who ministered to the House of Judah.

3. DATE:

- A. Habakkuk's ministry covered a period of about 20 years (620-600 B.C.), during the reigns of Josiah, Jehoahaz, and Jehoiakim of Judah.
- B. Written between 620 and 600 B.C.

4. KEY WORDS:

- A. Violence – 6
- B. Woe – 5
- C. Judgment – 4
- D. Spoil (ed, ing) – 4

5. KEY VERSES: 2:4

6. PURPOSE:

- A. To set forth the problem as to why a Holy God would use the much more wicked nation of Babylon to judge the wicked nation of Judah.
- B. To answer the problem by revealing that God will in turn judge Babylon.

7. MESSAGE:

- A. God is consistent with Himself in view of permitted evil.
- B. God is holy and righteous and must punish sin.
- C. The just shall live by faith.

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8. OUTLINE:

- I. The Burden: The Problem of Faith ----- First Conversation Ch. 1
- II. The Vision: The Answer of Faith ----- Second Conversation Ch. 2
- III. The Prayer: The Assurance of Faith ----- Prophet's Psalm Ch. 3

9. SUMMARY:

Habakkuk is not a direct address to the people of Judah, but rather is a dialogue between the prophet and God. In the first conversation, he complains of God's apparent lack of concern over Judah's sin. The Lord replies that He will use the Babylonians to judge Judah. To Habakkuk this only complicates the matter and in the second conversation he complains of God's apparent lack of concern over the cruelty of the Babylonians, and the Lord answers that He will also judge Babylon for her violence. The prophet, having his questions answered, closes with a psalm of trust and triumph in the Lord.

NOTE: This book contains the only positive use of the word faith in the Old Testament.

10. CHRIST SEEN:

Christ is seen as The Judge of Babylon (Revelation 17, 18) and the Rewarder of those that diligently seek Him in faith (Hebrews 10:38; 11:6).