



COMING UP... JULY 28: Jeremiah part 2 (chs. 34-52) AUG 4: Lamentations AUG 11: Obadiah AUG 18: Ezekiel part 1 (chs. 1-32) AUG 25: Ezekiel part 2 (chs. 33-48)

"It Is Well With My Soul" by Horatio Spafford
*When peace like a river attendeth my way,
 When sorrows like sea billows roll;
 Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
 "It is well, it is well with my soul."
 It is well with my soul,
 It is well with my soul,
 It is well, it is well with my soul.*



Megiddo

HABAKKUK SUMMARIZED IN A WORD OR PHRASE: "Faith"

THE BASICS ...

Who: Habakkuk ("embrace") **When:** pre-exilic (612-586 BC) **Where:** primarily to Judah and Jerusalem
Why: "Habakkuk wrote to show how the righteous should live by faith in unsettling times." –Charles Dyer

THE TIMES ...

Babylon dealt Nineveh a fatal blow, effectively bringing Assyria to an end (612 BC)
 Josiah's reign and spiritual reforms have come to an untimely end with his death on the battlefield at Megiddo against Egypt (609 BC)
 Babylon has just crushed Egypt at the battle of Carchemish to become the undisputed superpower of the world (605 BC)
 Johoiakim, one of Josiah's sons, has been wickedly ruling Judah, undoing everything his father had set in motion (609-586 BC)
 Zephaniah, Jeremiah and now Habakkuk have been sent to beg and to warn Judah one more time to repent —all to no avail
 Judah's "good life" is about to end
 It's around 605 BC ... and Babylon is coming

LESSON THEME: The godly live by revelation, not explanation

Habakkuk Wrestles With God (1)

Habakkuk's first complaint: "Lord, You aren't doing anything!" (1:2-4)

Look around: the times are unjust, wicked and dangerous

I'm praying for revival

You're not answering my prayers

In fact, You seem silent, indifferent and inactive

God's first answer: "I am working." (1:5-11)

Habakkuk's second complaint: "You can't use the Babylonians against us!" (1:2-2:1)

Don't You remember ... the Babylonians are wicked?!

Though we, Your people, surely need to be chastened, should it be by those godless and ruthless people?

Are you just going to let them get away with it?!

I'll just wait here for Your answer ...

Habakkuk Waits On God (2)

"Write down this vision." (2:2-3)

It's for the future

Though it may seem long in coming, it *will* come

"Trust My Word." (2:4-5)

There are two ways to wait ...

The arrogant Babylonians trust themselves; they're "puffed up"

The righteous, however, must live by faith

"Announce My judgment." (2:6-20)

Woe against extortion (vv. 6-8)

Woe against security by unjust gain (vv. 9-11)

Woe against exploiting people (vv. 12-14)

Woe against drunkenness and violence (vv. 15-17)

Woe against idolatry (vv. 18-20)

Habakkuk Worships God (3)

He prays to God (3:1-2)

His view of the Lord and His ways has been inspiring and refreshing to his soul

He meditates on God (3:3-15)

He praises God, declares his renewed intent to wait in faith in spite of his circumstances, and (undoubtedly) shares this message with the faithful to encourage them (3:16-19)

APPLICATION: The godly live by revelation, not explanation

Observations

Why do good and godly people suffer?

Why isn't God answering my prayers?

Why does God seem silent and inactive when I'm praying for and according to His will?

Why does it seem that every time I'm genuinely striving to do my best for the Lord I only get the worst from other people?

➤ The godly live by *revelation*, not *explanation*

God's Promises to Habakkuk

"I am working." (1:5)

God doesn't give Habakkuk an answer, but instead gives him a renewed vision of Himself

We must walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor 5:7)

"The righteous shall live by faith." (2:4)

Romans 1:17; an act of faith for justification

Galatians 3:11; a lifestyle of faith for sanctification

Hebrews 10:38; follow God ... come what may

"My glory will fill the earth." (2:14)

The omnipotent God of heaven and earth *will* accomplish His will according to His inerrant Word

"I am still on My throne." (2:20)

God is still in control

Romans 11:33-36

In Confusion and Difficulty ...

Seek to know God

Seek to know God's Word and promises

Take your problems to Him

With the respect that's due Him

With honesty

With an open heart ... and open will ... to wait

Wait for His answer

Look at His *revelation* rather than looking for a satisfactory *explanation*; focus on *Who*, not *why*

Let what you find turn your worry into worship

Step forward in renewed faith

Remembering His past provisions and mercies
 With the true peace of God, not just a shallow optimism (Phil 4:6-7)
 And in faith, let it be well with your soul!

FOR NEXT TIME: _____

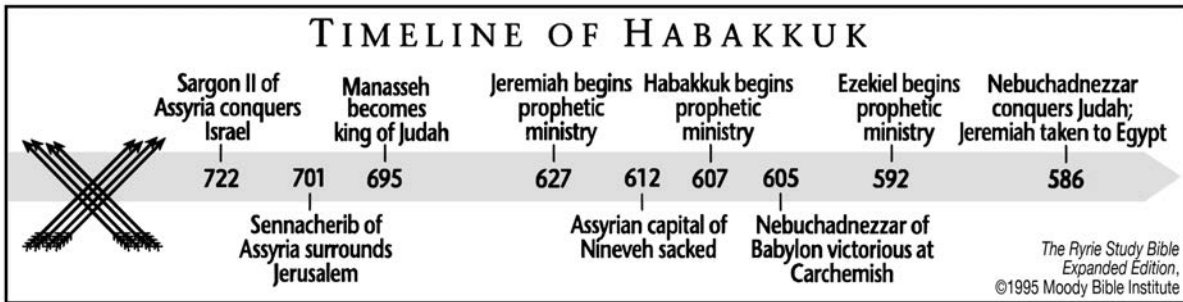
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Human Perplexity and God's Purpose (2:2-20)

Hab 1:2-11; 3:2-19
 Deut 29:29
 Ps 47:9; 139:6; 145:3
 Isa 55:8-9
 Dan 4:25, 35
 Rom 11:33-34; 13:1
 Acts 17:24-26
 Eph 1:3-10
 Col 1:15-20
 2 Pet 3:15

Habakkuk had a candid relationship with God: The prophet felt free to bring his honest concerns to the Lord, and God did not rebuke him for doing so. From Habakkuk's perspective, God seemed inactive in the face of the violence and social injustice plaguing Judah (1:2-4). God then revealed that he would take action: He was going to raise up the Babylonians—a nation even more wicked than Judah—to punish Judah (1:5-11). This perplexed Habakkuk, yet God's assurance that justice would be done and a vision of God's glory brought the prophet to settled faith (cp. 2:4) and praise (3:16-19).

Habakkuk's spiritual journey is similar to that of most believers. When times of doubt and discouragement come, believers need to approach the Lord and share their concerns with him. Like Habakkuk, we need to search God's word for a fresh glimpse of who God is and what he is like in order to renew our trust in the One who alone is truly God.

Habakkuk 2:2-20 reminds us that the Lord is not an absentee god; he acts sovereignly in all that comes to pass so that everything might work toward his purpose (2:3, 14; see also Ps 47:9; Acts 17:24-26; Col 1:15-20). The Lord is a holy and merciful God who acts in history to redeem his people (3:2-15; see also Eph 1:3-10; 2 Pet 3:15) so that all may ultimately see his glory (2:14).

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Questions and Answers

Habakkuk

<p>Habakkuk's Questions</p> <p>God, have you abandoned us? 1:1-4</p> <p>The Babylonians? God, how could you? 1:12-2:1</p> <p>God, are you still there? 3:1-15</p>	<p>God's Answers</p> <p>No, but Israel's wickedness has not gone unnoticed; I will send the Babylonians to punish my people 1:5-11</p> <p>I know the Babylonians are not innocent; I promise to crush them as well 2:3,8</p> <p>Yes, and I will strengthen my people even in difficult times 3:16-19</p>
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The NIV Quickview Bible

HABAKKUK

Problems of Habakkuk				Praise of Habakkuk	
What God is doing				Who God is	
Habakkuk's first complaint: How can God permit wickedness to continue?	God's first reply	Habakkuk's second complaint: How can God use the wicked to punish Judah?	God's second reply	Habakkuk's prayer of praise	
1:1 1:4	1:5 1:11	1:12 2:1	2:2 2:20	3:1	3:19

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"Habakkuk" by James Tissot

Big Ideas in HABAKKUK

- God is holy and just; he is not indifferent regarding sin and injustice
- God will punish the wicked at the right time
- The righteous wait faithfully for God's purposes to be fulfilled
- God's goodness can be seen even in the worst situations

The NIV Quickview Bible

HABAKKUK

NOT UNIQUE! MOST NATIONS EVENTUALLY BECOME BABYLON...

WHEN GOD WILL:

- DEFEAT EVIL
- BRING JUSTICE TO ALL
- RESCUE THE OPPRESSED

A PAST EXODUS → BECOMES AN **EXODUS** → **A FUTURE EXODUS**

GOD'S ANSWER TO Habakkuk's Prayer

3 HABAKKUK'S PRAYER

1-2@ HABAKKUK & GOD

1-2@ HABAKKUK & GOD

17-21 COMPLAINT #1

HOW LONG WILL I CRY OUT? WHY DON'T YOU LISTEN? (17)

TORAH NEGLECTED

VIOLENCE & INJUSTICE

CORRUPT LEADERSHIP

17-21 COMPLAINT #2

WHAT? BABYLON IS EVEN WORSE THAN ISRAEL!

I'LL STAND WATCH & WAIT FOR GOD TO RESPOND TO ME (21)

17-21 COMPLAINT #3

THEY HURT THEIR TOOKER THEY TREAT HUMANS LIKE ANIMALS THEY DEVOUR NATIONS

17-21 COMPLAINT #4

DOESN'T ACCUSE ISRAEL

ADDRESSES GOD WITH HIS STRUGGLE: IS GOD GOOD WHEN THERE'S SO MUCH EVIL IN THE WORLD?

LAMENT: DRAGGING GOD'S ATTENTION TO INJUSTICE

17-21 COMPLAINT #5

INJUSTICE & IDOLATRY

FINAL DECADES of ISRAEL'S SOUTHERN KINGDOM

15-11 RESPONSE #1

LOOK! I'M BRINGING THE BABYLONIANS.

15-11 RESPONSE #2

GOD WILL BRING BABYLON DOWN!

GOD HATES USE CORRUPT KINGDOMS, BUT DOESN'T ENDUCE THEM.

ALL NATIONS ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD'S JUSTICE.

15-11 RESPONSE #3

VISION ABOUT AN APPOINTED TIME

15-11 RESPONSE #4

RIGHTeous WILL LIVE BY THEIR Faith

2@ FIVE 'WOES'

THE OPPRESSIVE INJUSTICE OF BABYLON

- 1) UNJUST ECONOMICS
- 2) SLAVE LABOR
- 3) IRRESPONSIBLE LEADERS
- 4) IDOLATRY

2@ FIVE 'WOES'

RIGHTeous WILL LIVE BY THEIR Faith

3@ HABAKKUK'S PRAYER

3@ HABAKKUK'S PRAYER

HABAKKUK PLEADS WITH GOD (1-2)

RENEW YOUR WORK IN OUR DAYS! (1-2)

3@ HABAKKUK'S PRAYER

APPEARS IN POWER! SIMILAR TO MICAH 1 & NAHUM 1... & TO THE SINAI (5000) (5000)

3@ HABAKKUK'S PRAYER

YOU CRUSH THE HEAD OF THE EVIL HOUSE (3-19)

ARCHETYPE of EVIL NATIONS

3@ HABAKKUK'S PRAYER

YOU SAVE YOUR PEOPLE AND YOUR ANNOUINED ANNOUINED ONE. (3-19)

EVEN IF THE FIELDS PRODUCE NO FOOD, I WILL FIND JOY IN GOD MY SAVIOR. (3-17-18)

3@ HABAKKUK'S PRAYER

SHINING EXAMPLE OF THE Righteous LIVING BY Faith

3@ HABAKKUK'S PRAYER

A FUTURE EXODUS

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