

Habakkuk: *Living By Faith When Life Gets Hard*

Introduction

Habakkuk differs from the other writing prophets in two ways: 1) he pleads with God to judge His disobedient people; 2) his message is a dialogue between the prophet and God.

I. The Author—All that is known about Habakkuk is his name, which means “embrace,” and his profession (“prophet”). Habakkuk is the only pre-exilic writing prophet to be designated a prophet in the introduction to his message.

II. The Audience—The prophecy was written to the nation of Judah sometime after Babylon became a great international power (1:7-11) but before the invasion of Judah in 605 B.C. A date around 608 B.C. is best for the time of writing.

III. The Aim—To show that in spite of the perplexity and confusion that sin brings knowing who God is can turn doubt into devotion and confusion and confidence.

IV. The Arrangement

HABAKKUK

Habakkuk's Dialogue with God			
	The Burden	The Watch	The Vision
	Wrestling with: God's silence Judah's sinfulness God's character <hr/> Questions: How long? Why? Who? CHAPTER 1	Waiting for <u>an answer</u> CHAPTER 2:1	Record the vision! <hr/> Wait for it! <hr/> Woe to the Babylonians! CHAPTER 2:2-20
	Habakkuk's Praise to God		
	Lord, I've heard . . . I stand in awe . . . I wait . . . I praise . . . I rejoice CHAPTER 3		
Confession	"Lord . . . You confuse me."	"Lord . . . I wait for You."	
Perspective	Horizontal	Vertical	
Direction	Looking around and worrying	Looking up and listening	
Theme	Habakkuk's wrestling with God over His unfathomable ways and the prophet's resulting faith		
Key Verses	2:4; 3:17-19		
Christ in Habakkuk	Those who have been made righteous in Christ must "live by [their] faith" (2:4). When Christ comes again, "the earth will be filled / With the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, / As the waters cover the sea" (2:14).		

Faith Tested (1) *Worrying*
Faith Taught (2) *Watching and Waiting*
Faith Triumphant (3) *Worshiping*

V. The Analysis

Habakkuk's Confusion (1-2)

1st complaint (1:2-4)

God's 1st response (1:5-11)

2nd complaint (1:12-2:1)

God's 2nd response (2:2-20)

Habakkuk's Confidence (3)

Prayer for God's Mercy (1-2)

Praise for God's Power (3-15) Theophany

Proclamation of God's Sufficiency (16-19)

VI. The Application