UNCOMPROMISING FAITH

... the just shall live by his faith Habakkuk 2:4

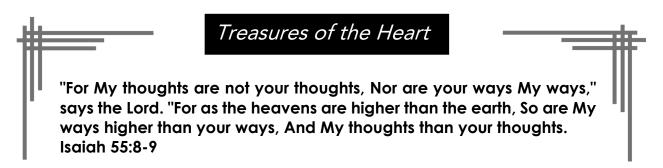


Background Information

Little is known of the prophet Habakkuk apart from his name, which means "embrace", or "the one who embraces". It is thought that he may have been a member of a prophetic guild. His hymn at the conclusion of the book suggests that he also may have been a priest connected with the temple worship. He prophesied pre-exile with a call to repentance, sometime between the death of King Josiah (609 b.c.) and the beginning of the Babylonian captivity (605 b.c.) Along with his contemporaries Zephaniah and Jerimiah, Habakkuk warned of God's approaching judgment by the Babylonians. Realizing Israel's iniquity and need for punishment, he is perplexed how God could use an even more wicked nation to chastise His children.

Habakkuk ministered during the death throes of the nation of Judah, during the times of 2 Kings. His mission was to cry out against the violence, lawlessness and injustice he saw all around him. Though repeatedly called to repentance, the nation stubbornly refused to change their ways. Discouraged by what he sees, his faith began to question God's righteousness and judgment. Habakkuk cries out to God and asks the questions that all of our hearts cry when we can't see the Lord working, "Why?" and "How long?" As God reveals Himself to the prophet, he catches a glimpse of His ways and breaks into praise.

The Lord uses prophecy to prepare His people and call them to repentance and righteousness. He also uses prophecy so that when His Word's come to pass, the people will see and know that He is God. Ezekiel 33:33 *And when this comes to pass — surely it will come — then they will know that a prophet has been among them.* It has been said that "History repeats itself." We can learn much from history if we see how God deals with his people, listen to His voice and discern His ways.





What does it say?

The first step is getting the lay of the land. Carefully observe the text looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. Mark your text looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

Habakkuk 1:1-4

1 The burden which the prophet Habakkuk saw. 2 O LORD, how long shall I cry, And You will not hear? Even cry out to You, "Violence!" And You will not save. 3 Why do You show me iniquity, And cause [me] to see trouble? For plundering and violence [are] before me; There is strife, and contention arises. 4 Therefore the law is powerless, And justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; Therefore perverse judgment proceeds.



Digging Deeper

Dig deeper using other resources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps and cross-references. Notate where you found it to share with the group. Look for commands to obey or questions to be answered. What does God want you to know about Himself?

Habakkuk 1:5-11

5 "Look among the nations and watch--Be utterly astounded! For [I will] work a work in your days [Which] you would not believe, though it were told [you]. 6 For indeed I am raising up the Chaldeans, A bitter and hasty nation Which marches through the breadth of the earth, To possess dwelling places [that are] not theirs. 7 They are terrible and dreadful; Their judgment and their dignity proceed from themselves. 8 Their horses also are swifter than leopards, And more fierce than evening wolves. Their chargers charge ahead; Their cavalry comes from afar; They fly as the eagle [that] hastens to eat. 9 "They all come for violence; Their faces are set [like] the east wind. They gather captives like sand. 10 They scoff at kings, And princes are scorned by them. They deride every stronghold, For they heap up earthen [mounds] and seize it. 11 Then [his] mind changes, and he transgresses; He commits offense, [Ascribing] this power to his god."

Habakkuk 1:12 - 2:1

12 Are You not from everlasting, O LORD my God, my Holy One? We shall not die. O LORD, You have appointed them for judgment; O Rock, You have marked them for correction. 13 [You are] of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, [And] hold Your tongue when the wicked devours A [person] more righteous than he? 14 [Why] do You make men like fish of the sea, Like creeping things [that have] no ruler over them? 15 They take up all of them with a hook, They catch them in their net, And gather them in their dragnet. Therefore they rejoice and are glad. 16 Therefore they sacrifice to their net, And burn incense to their dragnet; Because by them their share [is] sumptuous And their food plentiful. 17 Shall they therefore empty their net, And continue to slay nations without pity?

2:1 I will stand my watch And set myself on the rampart, And watch to see what He will say to me, And what I will answer when I am corrected.

What does it mean?



What lesson can I draw from my observations? Ask yourself, "What was the intended meaning of the original author?" Is there a command to obey, or a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid? State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else. (aim for 10 words or less).

Habakkuk 1:1-4
Habakkuk 1:5-11
Habakkuk 1:12 2:1
Habakkuk 1:12-2:1
Ask yourself, "What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?" How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions (aim for 10 words or less)
Habakkuk 1:1-4
Habakkuk 1:5-11

Habakkuk 1:12-2:1_____

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.	of
What Did God Say?	
lee if you can discover what God wants us to understand. What does He want us to understand lis ways? Which of His attributes is He displaying? When we are questioning the circumstance urround us, understanding Who God is helps us trust Him when we don't see Him working. Simply hat God is trying to communicate about Himself.	es that
What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point.	
Define three words: does it supply any added meaning to the text?	



See if you can boil down the meaning of each section into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

Habakkuk 1:1-4
Habakkuk 1:5-11
Habakkuk 1:12-2:1
Title State the main point of the passage in the form of a title.
Flex Your Muscles Can you discover an N.T. example of this O.T. truth?

Radiating His Truth...

It is good to wrestle with God about the questions that perplex you – just be sure to stop talking long enough to listen. - warren Wiersbe

Message Notes