

UNCOMPROMISING FAITH

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



HABAKKUK

Faith In His Judgement

Faith in His Word

Habakkuk 1:1-2:1

Lesson 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.

Treasures of the Heart

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:8-9

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 _____

How can I apply it?



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 of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.

What **D**id **G**od **S**ay?

See if you can discover what God wants us to understand. What does He want us to understand about His ways? Which of His attributes is He displaying? When we are questioning the circumstances that surround us, understanding Who God is helps us trust Him when we don't see Him working. **Simply state what God is trying to communicate about Himself.**

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?



Getting The Point

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

