

The Minor Prophets

Habakkuk – The Just Shall Live by Faith

Please pray and ask the Lord for understanding of His Word before you begin.

Read Chapter 1

1. The name Habakkuk means “embrace” or “to wrestle”. As you read verses 1-4 look at Psalm 94:3, Lamentations 3:8, Micah 3:1-3, Jeremiah 12:1-4, and Revelation 6:10.

- a. What is the prophet’s complaint?
- b. What does he perceive about God and is it true?
- b. Have you ever ‘wrestled’ with God over something and thought that He wasn’t hearing you?
- c. What was the outcome?

2. Instead of revival the Lord replies to Habakkuk that He is sending judgment via the Chaldeans (Babylon). Read verses 5-11 and list some of the characteristics these people are known for. Jeremiah gave specifics of this invasion if you want to know more about the fall of Judah. The Assyrians had already devastated the northern tribes before falling to the Babylonians themselves in 612 B.C. Judah was invaded and fell to the Chaldeans in 586 B.C.

3. Read verses 12-17.

- a. What is the prophet struggling with?
- b. According to verse 12, what does the prophet understand about God? Malachi 3:5,6 may help your answer.

4. Look at verse 13 along with Psalm 5:4,5. What is perplexing Habakkuk now?

- a. Read Romans 3:10-12,23. What do you learn?
- b. We know that God sees everything, so what did Habakkuk mean when he said “You are of purer eyes than to behold evil and cannot look on wickedness”?

5. Do you think it is wrong to question God like Habakkuk did? Why or why not?

6. When we don't understand **why** God allows things into our lives why must we remember **who** God is?

7. The Babylonians thought of themselves as fishermen. They put hooks into their captives' lips and led them around. Can you see why Habakkuk felt that the people would be surrounded by hooks and caught in nets?

a. Do you sometimes feel that we are surrounded by wicked fishermen with many hooks and dragnets?

b. Can you draw parallels to our society from chapter 1 of Habakkuk?

8. Read verse 1 of chapter 2. We see the prophet thinking of himself as a watchman on the wall. What does it mean to be a watchman on the wall in the church today? (2 Timothy 4:5, and 1 Thessalonians 5:6.)

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah"

Psalm 46: 1-3