

Historical Context

- Habakkuk means “*embrace*.”
- Little is known about the man Habakkuk. Most believe he was a resident of Jerusalem.
- The book most likely dates around 622 B.C., seventeen years before the three phases of the Babylonian exiles were carried out in 605, 597, and 586 B.C..
- The Book of Habakkuk differs from other books of prophesy in one special aspect: Instead of taking God’s message directly to the people, he takes the complaint of the people to God, representing them in the complaint.

Structure & Outline

1:1-4	Habakkuk’s 1 st Complaint
1:5-11	God’s Answer
1:12-17	Habakkuk’s 2 nd Complaint
2:1-20	God’s 2 nd Answer
3:1-15	A Vision of God the Undefeatable Holy Warrior
3:16-19	Habakkuk’s Renewed & Unshakable Faith

Major Themes, Message, & Application

God is the Sovereign Lord of History

“I am doing something in your days—You would not believe if you were told” (1:5b).

Habakkuk reminds us that the Lord is not an absentee god. He is in control of history and His dealings are always just and right. Believers must be willing to accept God’s answers and delight in His will, even if those are completely foreign to their own thinking. God does see and care deeply about what happens on earth. Although people may not perceive it, God’s sovereign hand is at work, and he will ultimately bring all matters to a proper and just conclusion. He acts sovereignly so that everything might work toward his purpose (2:3, 14). The Lord is a holy and merciful God who acts in history to redeem his people (3:2-15) so that all might ultimately see His glory (2:14).

– David Baker; *Nahum, Habakkuk & Zephaniah*

Acts 17:24-28

The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; ²⁵ nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all *people* life and breath and all things; ²⁶ and He made from one *man* every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, ²⁷ that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He

is not far from each one of us; ²⁸ for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'

Colossians 1:15-20

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, ²⁰ and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

- Humility Must Always Be Our Default

Habakkuk 2:20 "But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him."

God's People Live By Faith

"Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; But the righteous will live by his faith (2:4).

- The Commentary of the New Testament's Writers Regarding Habakkuk 2:4
 - How does Paul & the Hebrews writer unpack the idea of what it means to "live by faith"?
 - What is the unique contribution of each passage of commentary?

Romans 1:17

For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous *man* shall live by faith."

Notes:

Galatians 3:11-14

Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, "The righteous man shall live by faith." ¹² However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, "He who practices them shall live by them." ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"— ¹⁴ in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Notes:

Hebrews 10:32-39

32 But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, 33 partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. 34 For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one. 35 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

37 For yet in a very little while,

He who is coming will come, and will not delay.

38 But My righteous one shall live by faith;

And if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him.

39 But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

Notes:

Evil Will Self-Destruct

“Then they will sweep through like the wind and pass on. But they will be held guilty, They whose strength is their god” (1:11)

	Five Woes in the Taunt Against the Babylonians
2:6b-8	“Woe to him who amasses what is not his...”
2:9-11	“Woe to him who dishonestly makes wealth...”
2:12-13	“Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed...”
2:15-17	“Woe to him who gives his neighbor drink...”
2:18-19	“Woe to him who says to wood: ‘Wake up!’”

- “God may use the wicked as a tool of judgment, but if the righteous are patient, they will survive the tyranny and arrogance of the tyrant.” – Homer Hailey; *The Minor Prophets*

Remembering Who God is and His Past Faithfulness Silences Doubts and Renews Faith

“O Lord I have heard the report about you, and I fear... (3:2).

(3:2)

The Theophany (3:3-15)

(3:16)

(3:2) Lord, I have heard the report about You *and* I fear.
O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years,
In the midst of the years make it known;
In wrath remember mercy.

When we see God and His Work It Changes Everything...

(3:16) I heard and my inward parts trembled,
At the sound my lips quivered.
Decay enters my bones,
And in my place I tremble.
Because I must wait quietly for the day of distress,
For the people to arise *who* will invade us.

The prophet who once complained now praises...
The prophet who once called for judgment now calls for mercy...

Unshakable Faith is Restored

(3:17-19) Though the fig tree should not blossom
And there be no fruit on the vines,
Though the yield of the olive should fail
And the fields produce no food,
Though the flock should be cut off from the fold
And there be no cattle in the stalls,
¹⁸ Yet I will exult in the Lord,
I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.
¹⁹ The Lord God is my strength,
And He has made my feet like hinds' *feet*,
And makes me walk on my high places.

John 20:29

Jesus *said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? **Blessed *are* they who did not see, and *yet* believed.”**

