

# Habakkuk

## Introduction.

- A. Eighth of The Twelve (Minor Prophets).
- B. Nothing is known about the man (name means “embrace”).
- C. Date.
  - 1. Between the fall of Nineveh (612 BC) and destruction of Jerusalem (586 BC).
  - 2. Contemporary of Jeremiah (lived 650 – 570 BC).
  - 3. Reign of Jehoiakim (609 – 598 BC).
- D. Conquests of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar.
  - 1. Nabopolassar had joined the Medes in rebellion against Assyria.
    - a. Crowned king in 626 BC.
    - b. Nineveh destroyed 612 BC.
  - 2. Sent Nebuchadnezzar to fight the Egyptians.
    - a. Battle of Carchemish (605 BC).
    - b. Judah became a vassal state of Babylon.
  - 3. Nebuchadnezzar succeeded his father in 605 BC.
  - 4. Re-conquered Jerusalem in 598 BC.
  - 5. Destroyed Jerusalem in 586 BC.

## I. The prophet’s complaint (1:2-4).

- A. Wickedness prospers (cf. Ps. 73).
  - 1. The Law is paralyzed.
  - 2. There is no justice in the land.
- B. Righteousness is hemmed in.
- C. The LORD is silent.
- D. Key verse: 2

## II. The LORD’s first answer (1:5-11).

- A. Completely different from what was expected.
- B. Babylon would punish Judah.
  - 1. Ruthless.
  - 2. Invincible.
  - 3. Self-confident to the point of arrogance (v.10).
- C. Key verse: 5.
- D. Heaven is not silent – God answers in history.

III. The prophet's further complaint (1:12 – 2:1).

- A. Names for God: LORD, Holy One, Rock.
- B. Babylon is more wicked than Judah.
  - 1. To them, men are no more important than fish in the sea.
  - 2. They rely on their prowess.
  - 3. They enjoy the fruit of their wickedness.
- C. Faith in God's answer (2:1).
- D. Key verse: 13b.

IV. The LORD's further answer (2:2 – 20).

- A. Patience.
- B. Babylon will be destroyed.
- C. The righteous will live because of their faith in God.
  - 1. Central theme of the book –and all Scripture.
  - 2. Talmud says all 613 commandments are summarized here.
  - 3. Quoted 3 times in NT.
    - a. Ro. 1:17 (focus on “the just”).
    - b. Ga. 3:11 (focus on “shall live”).
    - c. He. 10:38 (focus on “by faith”).
- D. Five woes.
  - 1. The spoiler will be spoiled.
  - 2. Oppression will lead to retribution from God.
  - 3. The Babylonian kingdom will give way to the Kingdom of God (cf. Daniel 2:31-35).
  - 4. Babylon's glory will turn to shame.
  - 5. The Babylonian gods are worthless; there is one true God.
- E. Silent wonder (v. 20).
- F. Key verses: 4, 14, 20.

V. The prophet's prayer (3:1-19).

A. Considered among the most magnificent poetry in Hebrew.

B. A song designed for public worship.

C. Glorious deeds.

1. God in his majesty (3-5).

a. Teman = present day Yemen.

b. Mt. Paran = Mt. Sinai or the Sinai region.

2. God in his power (6).

3. Fear of the nations (7-10).

a. Cushan (Cush) = present day Sudan along the Nile.

b. Midian = present day northwest Saudi Arabia along Gulf of Aquaba.

4. God's intervention for his people (11-15).

a. Reminder of Joshua's battle.

b. "Anointed One."

c. Reminder of crossing the Red Sea.

d. What God has done before, he can do again.

D. Terror and trust (16-19).

1. Weak with fear.

2. Will wait patiently for God to act.

3. Though the world crumbles, there can still be joy.

E. Key verses: 17-19; cf. Dan. 3:17-18).