

HABAKKUK

Introduction:

1. A Call for Divine Intervention – Habakkuk’s burden and prayer (Hab. 1:1-4)

A) Habakkuk senses that God does not hear his prayers

> This is an interesting insight into the man of God – he feels a distance between him and God

Habakkuk is perturbed by the rampant sin around him and God’s seeming indifference

B) Habakkuk wonders why God makes him look upon such injustice and tolerate wrong

> Interesting what Habakkuk reveals about his heart

C) Habakkuk is frustrated because the Law – God’s Law, is ignored (Hab. 1:4)

> Justice never prevails

> The wicked surround the righteous

> Justice is perverted

2. God Reveals His Plan to Habakkuk

A) You are not going to believe what I am going to do – even if you were told!

> Why do we think that God thinks like we do? (Isaiah 55:8-9)

B) I am going to raise up the Babylonians to administer judgment on Israel

> God is going to empower the Babylonians to bring judgment on His people?

The descriptions of the Babylonians (1:6b-11)

3. Habakkuk Challenges God’s Integrity

A) Your plan of intervention does not line up with your character (Hab. 1:12-13)

> You are too holy for such a plan ... too pure to look upon / approve such a wicked people (Hab. 1:13)

B) Your plan will only encourage the idolatry of the Babylonians (Hab. 1:14-17)

> Does Habakkuk believe that he can convince God to choose another plan?

C) Habakkuk will wait for God to think about His plan in light of Habakkuk's analysis (Hab. 2:1)

> Interesting, Habakkuk's attitude did not offend God ... so God answers him

4. God's Way demands Faith, encourages Hope, and invites Worship

A) The wisdom of God's plan demands Faith (Habakkuk 2:2-4)

> This standard for God's people is repeated three times in the New Testament (Romans 1:16-17; Galatians 3:10-11; Hebrews 10:35-38)

> Faith's confidence – God does not allow the guilty to go free

Woe to the greedy who oppress others (Hab. 2:6-8)

Woe to the covetous and proud (Hab. 2:9-11)

Woe to the criminal (Hab. 2:12-13)

Woe to the immoral person who willingly abuses another (Hab. 2:15-17)

Woe to the idolater (Hab. 2:18-19)

B) The wisdom of God's plan encourages Hope

> Even in a chaotic world united in rebellion, God is in control (Habakkuk 2:14, 20)

C) The wisdom of God's plan invites Worship

> The prophet's prayer of worship (Hab. 3:1-2)

Habakkuk's awareness of God's plan inspires awe

Habakkuk's awareness of God's plan renews his confidence in God

Habakkuk no longer doubts God's justice ... he desires His mercy

> The prophet ponders God's power (Hab. 3:3-16)

God had been faithful up to this point ... why would Habakkuk doubt Him now

Note the impact of this knowledge upon Habakkuk (Hab. 3:16)

> The prophet's praise will be founded in God's character, not life's circumstances (Hab. 3:17-19)

Though the covenantal promises of Divine blessing cannot be seen

Habakkuk will rejoice in the Lord (Hab. 3:18)

The Lord will be his strength (Hab. 3:19)

* Habakkuk has learned a great lesson ... the just shall live by faith!

