

A scenic mountain landscape with a river flowing through a valley, framed by a white border. The sun is shining from the upper right, creating a bright glow and lens flare. The mountains are rugged and rocky, with patches of snow or light-colored rock. The valley is lush green with a winding river and some small buildings.

**THE
LORD
IS IN HIS
HOLY
TEMPLE**

**A STUDY THROUGH
HABBAKUK**

HELPFUL INFORMATION

- ❖ **Habakkuk** (Embrace)
- ❖ **Date:** 640 – 606 B.C. More likely 612 – 606 B.C.
- ❖ **Background:** Written shortly before the Chaldeans would take out the Assyrians and invade Judah. Contemporaries would have likely been Jeremiah, Zephaniah, & Nahum.
- ❖ **Unique:** Habakkuk is sometimes called “The Questioning Prophet”. This isn’t so much God pleading His case to the people, but more about questions submitted to God.
- ❖ **Message:** Punishment is coming to Judah and then to the Chaldeans. God is just when using evil nations to discipline His people.

CHAPTER 1:1-11 Q & A

- ❖ **1-4:** Habakkuk questions God (possibly on behalf of the faithful) about the violence and sin in Judah. It seems as though God is watching “idly” and will not act. God’s law is “paralyzed” because they have rejected His instruction. All justice has been perverted in Judah.
- ❖ **5-11:** God answers: He’s going to do a work that no one will believe. He’s “raising up the Chaldeans”. They are large and their “justice and dignity go forth from themselves”. They are terrifying, fierce, and swift like the evening wolves, eagles, and whirlwind. They will come to conquer and laugh at all who would dare challenge them. Their might is their god!

CHAPTER 1:12-2:1 Q & A

- ❖ **12-17:** Habakkuk questions God again. God is Holy and everlasting! He does acknowledge that Judah will suffer punishment, but why would God use the Chaldeans? God can't even look at wrong, but is He going to allow an evil nation to take over those more righteous than themselves? The Chaldeans are like fishermen who use their hooks, small and large nets to "catch" their enemies. They turn around and make offerings to their tools of strength. How long will God allow them to kill?
- ❖ **2:1-2:** Habakkuk will wait for God's answer and God does not disappoint. He is to write the vision/revelation on tablets. The reader will be quick to warn those around them.

CHAPTER 2:3-5 God Answers

- ❖ **3-4:** God's revelation may seem "slow", but they are to wait for it because punishment is coming. While the Chaldeans are "puffed up", the "righteous shall live by faith." (*Paul will use this passage in Romans 1:17 & Galatians 3:11 when making the point that the Jew cannot rely on his own works for salvation (pride). The Hebrew writer would have considered the coming destruction of the Jews by the Roman government and appeals to this passage as well (Hebrews 10:37-39).*)
- ❖ **5:** "Wine" seems to represent their pride. The Chaldeans were greedy and are compared to "death" who never has enough victims. They have gathered victims from all nations.

CHAPTER 2:6-14 3 of 5 "Woes"

- ❖ **6-8:** The nations take up a taunt against the Chaldeans. "Woe" to him who takes what isn't his. Your debtors will one day awaken and take back what is theirs because of the violence and bloodshed which they suffered.
- ❖ **9-11:** "Woe" to those who get evil gain and think they are untouchable. They have brought shame and sin upon themselves. They have forfeited their souls. The stone and beams cry out against them.
- ❖ **12-14:** "Woe" to those who build their town by means of brutal treatment to their slaves. They labor in vain and this would come back to them as fire. Babylon would be destroyed and the earth would be filled with this knowledge.

CHAPTER 2:15-3:1 2 of 5 "Woes"

- ❖ **15-17:** "Woe" to those "drunk" on their pride. They use their power and take advantage of other nations to "gaze at their nakedness". They are instructed to have their fill of shame, drink themselves, and show their uncircumcision.
- ❖ **18-20:** "Woe" to those who lean on idols. What can an idol do? You made it! It has no life. You can call to it all you want . . . but it will not answer or save. However, the Lord is alive and well. "The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him."
- ❖ **1:** Habakkuk now gives a prayer/poem set to stringed instruments (19). *Selah* is believed to be a pause for the singers or a crescendo in music.

CHAPTER 3:2-15 Habakkuk's Prayer

- ❖ **2-15:** Habakkuk has heard God's judgment and it is fearful, but he asks the Lord to remember mercy in His wrath. *It seems as though Habakkuk will look back at what God has done and will continue to do.* God was there at Mount Sinai and His power was made clear. He sent plague and pestilence (in Egypt and among other nations). He is over all creation and the creation submits to Him. He destroyed His enemies (Cush & Midian) and He used even the rivers and sea (Nile, Red Sea, Jordan, etc.). The deep gave forth its voice and lifted its hands on high (flood). The sun and moon stood still (Joshua's request). Why? To save your people and especially to bring about His "Anointed One". He crushed the wicked completely and they were "pierced with his own arrows". The Medes would help the Chaldeans, but would then turn around and conquer them as well.

CHAPTER 3:16-19 Habakkuk's Prayer

- ❖ **16:** On one hand this makes his whole body tremble, but then he makes the beautiful statement, "Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble to come upon people who invade us."
- ❖ **17-18:** He acknowledges how bad it's going to be, but it is during this trial that he would "take joy in the God of my salvation".
- ❖ **19:** God is all that he needed. He would see Habakkuk through this trial and help him stand. The faithful would be saved.

Habakkuk In YOUR Life

- ❖ **1:4** – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek”, yet we can “paralyze” God’s law.
- ❖ **2:4** – “For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, *“The righteous shall live by faith”*. But, when do we apply this passage?
- ❖ **1:7** - Why are we surprised when the world acts like . . . the world? What can we expect from mankind and God? Romans 1; 1 Peter 4:1-6; Habakkuk 1:5-6.