

Main Point: Though the Assyrians were used by God to judge the northern kingdom of Israel, God had spared Judah of judgment because of their repentance (2 Chronicles 32). This repentant attitude lasted through the reign of King Josiah before the people sadly reverted back to their sinful behavior. With the deterioration of the Assyrian empire as his prophetic backdrop, the prophet Habakkuk has a philosophical conversation with God that addresses some of the most fundamental human questions. In many ways this book reads like a question and answer forum that occurred between God and His prophet.

The topics of this great Q&A include: Why does God permit evil? What do you do when your life doesn't make sense? How do you handle things when you don't understand God's methods?

Historical & Scriptural Placement: (630 B.C.) The prophet Habakkuk ministered in the Southern Kingdom during the deterioration of the Assyrian Empire. His ministry began during the reign of the Godly King Josiah (2 Chronicles 34 & 35).

Q&A: HABAKKUK AND GOD

DISCOURSE #1: WHY DOES GOD PERMIT EVIL?

ch. 1:1-4

QUESTION: GOD JUDGED ISRAEL. WHY HASN'T HE JUDGED JUDAH?

ch. 1:5-11

ANSWER: JUDAH WILL BE JUDGED BY THE BABYLONIAN EMPIRE.

DISCOURSE #2: WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN LIFE DOESN'T MAKE SENSE?

ch. 1:12-17

QUESTION: WHY WOULD GOD JUDGE JUDAH WITH A NATION THAT WAS MORE WICKED THAN HER? WHY NOT JUDGE THE BABYLONIANS?

ch. 2:1-4

HABAKKUK: WAITS PATIENTLY ON THE LORD'S REPLY
(DETERMINATION, ISOLATION, EXPECTATION, HUMILIATION)
GODLY REMINDER... THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH

ch. 2:5-20

ANSWER: BABYLON WILL ALSO BE JUDGED (5 WOES OF JUDGMENT)

DISCOURSE #3: HOW DO YOU HANDLE THINGS WHEN YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND GOD'S METHODS?

ch. 3:1-2

PRAYER: HABAKKUK REQUESTS GOD'S MERCY

ch. 3:3-15

ACCEPTS GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE AFFAIRS OF MAN

ch. 3:16-19

HABAKKUK DISPLAYS FAITH BY PUTTING HIS TRUST IN GOD

Key Verse: Habakkuk 2:4: "Behold the proud. His soul is not upright in him; but **THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.**"



Day 1: Big Questions....

Habakkuk 1:1-4 // THINKING POINTS: (1). Do you think the prophet Habakkuk was in sin to ask God such a passionate and challenging question? (2). What is the basic difference between doubt, skepticism, and unbelief? (3). Since the rest of the book is about God answering Habakkuk's question, what does this reveal about God's perspective on your personal questions?

Day 2: Seeking God: Determination....

Habakkuk 2:1a // THINKING POINTS: (1). What does it practically look like to pray with determination? (2). Why does God often make us wait when it comes to answering our prayers? (3). When we pray with determination, what should we be determined to see happen?

Day 3: Seeking God: Isolation....

Habakkuk 2:1b // THINKING POINTS: (1). Why is it important to pray in an isolated, quiet place? (2). What are the obvious advantages to praying in solitude? (3). For Habakkuk it was the "rampart". For Jesus it was the wilderness. Where is your isolated place and how often do you go and spend time alone with God?

Day 4: Seeking God: Expectation....

Habakkuk 2:1c // THINKING POINTS: (1). From this verse, how do we know Habakkuk was expecting to hear from God? (2). If you are honestly expecting to hear from God, how would this reality change your praying experience? (3). Do you think expectations have any bearing on whether or not God will communicate with a person?

Day 5: Seeking God: Resignation....

Habakkuk 2:1d // THINKING POINTS: (1). What was Habakkuk expecting to hear from God? (2). Do you pray with the intention of telling God what He should let you do, or are you open to the possibility He'll tell you something contrary to what you want to hear? (3). How should this truth change our attitude concerning the way we pray?

Day 6: Live By Faith....

Habakkuk 2:4 // THINKING POINT: (1). Why would God contrast the life of faith with the proud man? (2). Since the topic being addressed is the way we live, what does this tell us concerning God's expectations concerning His people? What are other things Christians try to live by? (3). What is faith? What should be the object of our faith? In what way does this flip religion upside down.

DEVOTIONS

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