

# The Book of Habakkuk

**The  
Righteous  
Shall Live  
by Faith**

***“Behold the  
proud, his soul  
is not upright in  
him; but the  
just shall live  
by his faith.”  
(2:4)***

# Background

- His name means “to embrace.”
- Most interesting of the Minor Prophets.
- Prophesied sometime between 625 and 606 B.C.
- Between Nineveh’s fall (612) and Nebuchadnezzar’s pursuit of Egypt (606).
- Habakkuk was contemporary with Jeremiah and Zephaniah.

# Background

- **Propheesied shortly before the first Chaldean invasion.**
- **Wonders how long God will tolerate her wickedness.**
- **God is raising up a nation to deal with Judah.**
- **At Megiddo, the Egyptians kill Josiah.**
- **Josiah succeeded by a series of wicked kings who plunged Judah further into idolatry.**

# Background

- Habakkuk foretold that the Chaldeans would fall--after God allowed them to punish Judah.
- Discussed the principles of righteousness.
- Judah's wickedness brought God's wrath—He sent Babylon to punish her.
- Habakkuk reaffirms God's rule over the nations.
- His purpose was to justify God's ways and console the Jews—for whom captivity was imminent.

# The Book's Main Divisions

- Faith is tested—the problem  
– 1:1—2:1
- Faith is taught—the solution  
– 2:2—3:15
- Faith is triumphant—the issue  
– 3:16-19

# Keys to Habakkuk

- **Key words**
  - Justice and salvation
- **Key phrase**
  - *“O Lord, how long shall I cry...Why?”*
- **Key chapter – 3**
- **Key verse**
  - 2:4

***“Behold the proud,  
His soul is not  
upright in him; but  
the just shall live by  
his faith.”***

# The Book 's Message

## God's Judgment on Judah (1:1—2:3)

- Book opens with the prophet's cry to the Lord.
- Perplexed by what he finds in Judah, Habakkuk complains to the Lord.
- God is not listening!
- All that is in the land--violence, destruction, strife, contention, and people arguing and wrangling with one another!

# The Book 's Message

## God's Judgment on Judah (1:1—2:3)

- The Law is not being observed; it is being perverted.
- Why doesn't God do something about the situation?
- God says He is doing something about it.
- He is raising up the Chaldeans, “**a bitter and hasty nation**” that is busy conquering other nations...

# The Book 's Message

## God's Judgment on Judah (1:1—2:3)

- Nebuchadnezzar, the Chaldean general, is taking captives as one *“gathers sand in a container.”*
- Other nations' strongholds do not worry him!
- *“Might is his god.”*
- Habakkuk is more perplexed—**how could God use such a wicked nation against His own people?**

# Habakkuk's Complaints

- **When will God act?**
  - 1:2,3

*“O LORD, how long shall I cry, and You will not hear? Even cry out to You, ‘Violence!’ And You will not save. Why do You show me iniquity, and cause me to see trouble? For plundering and violence are before me; there is strife, and contention arises.”*

# Habakkuk's Complaints

- **How could God use such a wicked nation against His own people?**  
– 1:12,13

*“Are You not from everlasting, O LORD my God, my Holy One? We shall not die. O LORD, You have appointed them for judgment; O Rock, You have marked them for correction. You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, and hold Your tongue when the wicked devours a person more righteous than he?”*

# The Book 's Message

## God's Judgment on the Chaldeans (2:4-20)

- Chaldean souls are puffed up and not upright.
- One will suffer by their hand for a while...
- Yet, the righteous must strive to "live by faith."
- Prophet correctly points out—a conqueror drunk on power and lusting for conquest is destined to fall!
- Character of cruelty and lust—God will surely judge!

# Five Woes From God

- **Woe to those who increase with pledges**  
–2:6-8

*“Will not all these take up a proverb against him, and a taunting riddle against him, and say, 'Woe to him who increases what is not his-how long? And to him who loads himself with many pledges'? Will not your creditors rise up suddenly? Will they not awaken who oppress you? And you will become their booty.” (2:6,7)*

# Five Woes From God

- **Woe to those who covet gain for an evil house**  
– 2:9-11

***“Woe to him who covets evil gain for his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of disaster! You give shameful counsel to your house, cutting off many peoples, and sin against your soul.”  
(2:9,10)***

# Five Woes From God

- **Woe to those who build a town with bloodshed**  
– 2:12-14

*“Woe to him who builds a town with bloodshed, who establishes a city by iniquity! Behold, is it not of the LORD of hosts that the peoples labor to feed the fire, and nations weary themselves in vain? For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.” (2:12-14)*

# Five Woes From God

- **Woe to those who give drink to their neighbor to make him drunk!**

**– 2:15-18**

*“Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbor, pressing him to your bottle, even to make him drunk, that you may look on his nakedness! You are filled with shame instead of glory. You also drink! And be exposed as uncircumcised! The cup of the LORD'S right hand will be turned against you, and utter shame will be on your glory.” (2:15,16)*

# Five Woes From God

- **Woe to those who think their idols can hear, talk, or teach!**  
– 2:19,20

***“Woe to him who says to wood, 'Awake!' To silent stone, 'Arise! It shall teach!' Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, yet in it there is no breath at all. But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him.” (2:19,20)***

# The Book's Message

## The victory of faith (3:1-19)

- A poem where the prophet looks back over the past history of the people.
- God always came to their aid.
- Knowing wrath is coming, the prophet cries for mercy.
- When Israel had been threatened in the past—Jehovah came to save her.

# The Book's Message

## The victory of faith (3:1-19)

- God will use Babylon to bring correction; then He will punish that wicked nation!
- He understands that God's ways are above man's ways.
- Such a faith is one that trusts in God, no matter what the circumstances!

# Song of Praise

- The prophet closes with a wonderful song of praise and thanksgiving!  
– 3:16-19

*“When I heard, my body trembled; my lips quivered at the voice; rottenness entered my bones; and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble. When he comes up to the people, He will invade them with his troops..” (3:16,17)*

# Lessons for Today

- **Every nation's destiny is in God's hands.**
- **Faithfulness to God is the only guarantee of permanence.**
- **Evil is self-destructive.**
- **God uses suffering to discipline and correct both nations and individuals.**