

The Peaceful Prophet

Habakkuk ch 1-3

His Questions: 1: 1-3

- **Oracle.** In Hebrew its meaning is burden. So this burden was put upon him by the Lord for him to write down and proclaim to his people.
- **Question #1.** How long must I pray for you to help my people and you don't answer? Habakkuk sees so much violence in his society, yet the Lord doesn't seem to help.
- **Question #2.** Why does he have to see all this violence? He is expressing his soul's burden for his sinful nation. He sees it as constantly growing worse, not ever better.

Why the Violence?

- **Verse 4 explains society's problem? The law is ignored, justice is lacking, the wicked overwhelm the righteous, so all of society has become perverted.**
- **This means the Jewish leaders, religious and secular, have turned their backs on the Lord and have become corrupted.**
- **What happens when society becomes corrupted?**

The Price of Corruption

- **Verses 5-11 explain who the Lord uses to discipline corrupt Israel.**
- **The Chaldeans/Babylonians.**
- **Note the destructive force that they'll bring over the land.**
- **Verses 12-17 Habakkuk accepts the Lord's judgment as righteous, but he questions why He'll use such a barbaric group of people to bring judgment.**
- **He is feeling a bit overwhelmed and weak-kneed!**

Habakkuk's Faithfulness

- **2:1 Despite knowing Israel's future, Habakkuk will stand watch and wait for the Lord to speak through him again. He also admits his guilt with the people when he contemplates what he'll say to a sinful people knowing that he also is sinful, though not corrupt.**

The Lord Speak

- **2:2-20 records the Lord speaking to Habakkuk and further explains why Israel will soon be disciplined by speaking five woes. These five woes reveal Israel's sin, so this is why a Righteous God has to judge their rebellious acts.**

Habakkuk's Prayer

- **Verse 2 is a petition for the Lord to do something. What you have done in the past, please do again. You once led us out of Egypt, so will you please do it again. When one has heard of the Lord's power, it will/should cause fear in seeing such power at work again. As you worked to free Israel then, please do it again!**
- **So in your justified wrath, please show us mercy!**

Habakkuk's Poem

- **Beginning in verse 3, Habakkuk delivers a profound poem set to music of a theophany. He sees YHWH's splendor and power at work! In the awesomeness of this vision, it causes him to relax and trust in YHWH's work and purpose.**
- **Then he closes in verses 18-19 showing his full acceptance of the discipline, and no matter how bad it gets, he will praise the Lord and look to Him for strength to make it through to the end.**

Parallel for today?

- **Do you see how Habakkuk's society equates with our society today? Are we not in that same position? Are we not awaiting the beginning of the Tribulation? It will be the worse time ever to exist on the earth, but will we say the same thing Habakkuk said in verses 18 and 19?**
- **Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Pr 3:5-6**