

Habakkuk 1 — “Confusion & Dialogue About What God Is Doing”

The key verse that summarizes the Old Testament — *Habakkuk 2.4* — “*the righteous will live by faith*”

- RIGHTEOUS — Rom 1:17 - imputation: righteous thru the imputation of Christ's righteousness
- LIVE — Heb 10:38 - sanctification: you must persevere & press on: live by faith
- FAITH — Gal 3.11 - you are saved thru faith alone in Christ!

Habakkuk is called a “Minor Prophet” — not “minor” because of importance, but because of the length of his prophecy. There are 12 Minor Prophets (Hosea - Malachi).

We must consider 3 sweeping truths with David Powlison:

1. God never establishes a no-fly zone to keep all problems away
2. We all enjoy and experience joys & good gifts from God's hand.
3. God works & acts through afflictions.
So you must anchor your experience more deeply in God's goodness.

Habakkuk's Prophecy: Some Background• Habakkuk the **man/prophet**:

- ➔He lived during times of past prosperities & a huge economic crisis
- ➔He was an officially ordained prophet of Yahweh
- ➔He was very well educated
- ➔He was deeply sensitive & emotional

• **The Time Period:**

- Mention of Babylonians/Chaldeans puts the book in the 7th c. BC — during time/reign of Judah's kings:
- Manasseh (697-642BC - 55years)
- Josiah (640-609BC - 30+ years)
 - After Josiah, Jehoahaz reigned 3 short months; Then, Jehoiachim reigned over Judah 11 years (609-598BC) = **but he was evil, ungodly and rebellious.**
 - Shortly after Jehoiachim rose to power, Habakkuk probably wrote his lament over the decay, violence, greed, fighting, and perverted justice that surrounded him. Babylon was rising; sin was skyrocketing! What to do!?
- Jehoiachim, one of Judah's final kings — about a decade before Babylonian exile (586BC)

• **What's going on currently?**

- International crisis & national corruption
- Severe suffering & severe sinfulness
- Pandemic & Pollution
- Global Trouble & Inward Evil
- Worldwide calamity; nationwide iniquity; religious obstinacy.

Christians don't live on explanations but on Promises!

The ever-present “**WHY**” must be swallowed up in the Everlasting “**WHO**”!

THE TROUBLES // TRIALS // PROBLEMS of HABAKKUK 1

- ✓The Context (1:1) — the scene/setting
- ✓The Confusion (1:2-11) — the sufferings
- ✓The Character (1:12-13) — the Stronghold/ the Sovereign
- ✓The Cries (1:14-17) — the supplications
- ✓The Consideration (2:1) — the submission

Outline of Habakkuk's Prophecy:

Chapter 1 - SEEK GOD! [trial; problems; affliction]

Chapter 2 - TRUST GOD! [trust; perspective; affirmation]

Chapter 3 - PRAISE GOD [triumph; praise; adoration]

God's promises and covenants are a better indication of reality than circumstances (Tom Constable).

I. SEE HABAKKUK'S DISTRESS (1-4)

II. SEE GOD'S DISCLOSURE (5-11)

III. SEE HABAKKUK'S DILEMMA (12-17)

IV. SEE HABAKKUK’S DILIGENCE (2:1)

Some lessons we learn from Habakkuk’s prophecy...

- God’s Plans are **PROFOUND**
- God’s Person is **PERFECT**
- God’s Decrees are **SURE**
- God’s Ways are **MYSTERIOUS**
- God’s People are **PROTECTED**
- God’s EAR is **OPEN**
- God’s WORD is **ENOUGH**

This book will call us to “live by faith” — HOW DO YOU REMAIN FAITHFUL???

1. Be a **repentant** church (confess sin!)
2. Be a **witnessing** Church (communicate the Savior!)
3. Be a **committed** church (commit to one another)
4. Be a **sacrificial** church (compassionately love others)

GOD MOVES IN A MYSTERIOUS WAY

God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea And rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines Of never failing skill
He treasures up His bright designs And works His sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy and shall break In blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast, Unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste, But sweet will be the flower.

Blind unbelief is sure to err And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter, And He will make it plain.

— William Cowper

BE THOU MY VISION

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my battle shield, sword for the fight;
Be Thou my dignity, Thou my delight;
Thou my soul's shelter, Thou my high tower:
Raise Thou me heavenward, O power of my
power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's
sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.