

THE BOOK OF HABAKKUK:

HIS DIALOGUE AND PRAYER-SONG

Habakkuk lived in Judah when the Chaldeans or Babylonians conquered the Assyrians and became the world power of that day. Probably Nebuchadnezzar had already taken some of the nobles of Jerusalem to Babylon at the time of his prophecy. Read now this somewhat autobiographical sketch to see what thoughts were occupying Habakkuk's mind at this time, and what he did as a result of these thoughts:

A. Habakkuk's First Question: Read Habakkuk 1:1-11

1. What was Habakkuk's first question to God? Habakkuk 1:2-3

2. In God's answer, who did He show was in control of all these things? Habakkuk 1:5-6

3. Read again Habakkuk 1:5-11. From your own knowledge of Judah's history, can you tell why God would allow the Chaldeans to conquer Judah? See Habakkuk 1:12

B. Habakkuk's Second Question: Read Habakkuk 1:12 - 2:20

1. What did Habakkuk feel about the relative wickedness of the Chaldeans and the people of Judah? Habakkuk 1:13c

2. Therefore, what was his second great question to God? Habakkuk 1:13b

3. To what did Habakkuk compare the people of Judah and other nations as they were captured by the Chaldeans? Habakkuk 1:14-17

4. To what vision do you think God was referring in Habakkuk 2:2-3? (THINK! What had been promised by other prophets, which Habakkuk longed to see?)

5. When did God say this vision would come to pass? Habakkuk 2:3

6. What did this prove about the suffering of the people of Judah? How long would it last?

7. In the meantime, what would the righteous or just people of Judah have to do? Habakkuk 2:4b

8. What would eventually happen to the Chaldeans? Habakkuk 2:8

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9. For what five things did God pronounce woe on the Chaldeans?

- a. Habakkuk 2:6b-8 _____
- b. Habakkuk 2:9-11 _____
- c. Habakkuk 2:12-14 _____
- d. Habakkuk 2:15-17 _____
- e. Habakkuk 2:18-20 _____

C. Habakkuk's Prayer-Song: Read Habakkuk 3

1. After God had answered Habakkuk's questions, what did Habakkuk do? Habakkuk 3:1

2. How had God's speech made Habakkuk feel? Habakkuk 3:2a

3. What did Habakkuk cry out to God to do? Habakkuk 3:2b

4. Of Whom did Habakkuk give a wonderful description? Habakkuk 3:3-15

5. Read through these verses again, trying to picture each scene in your mind. This third chapter is a prophetic poem of such beautiful literary style that it has been called one of the most glorious things of all literature. Notice especially the references to events in Israel's history.

6. After this experience, what did Habakkuk determine to do in the face of the coming trouble? Habakkuk 3:16b-19

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What do I do with the questions which arise in my mind? See Habakkuk 1:2

2. Have I learned to live by faith - trusting God, and even rejoicing in Him - no matter what the circumstances of my life may be? Habakkuk 3:17-18.
