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Wednesday in the Word with
Krisan Marotta
serious Bible study applied to real life

Habakkuk: Faith Under Fire

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Suggested Reading

How to Study the Bible

- [Basics of Bible Interpretation, by Bob Smith](http://www.raystedman.org/leadership/smith/) – a classic! great for the beginner. Now available FREE online, though I believe you can still buy a paper copy.
<http://www.raystedman.org/leadership/smith/>
- [Adventuring Through the Bible: A Comprehensive Guide to the Entire Bible, by Ray C Stedman](http://www.raystedman.org/bible-overview/adventuring) – this is my favorite one-volume commentary; It is often my starting point when beginning a new study. You can buy a paper copy or access it FREE online.
<http://www.raystedman.org/bible-overview/adventuring>
- [Precepts Austin – How to do an Inductive Study](http://www.preceptaustin.org/inductive_bible_study.htm) — Complete at least the first 3 lessons in how to do an inductive bible study. Then explore the rest of the resources on this helpful site. http://www.preceptaustin.org/inductive_bible_study.htm
- [*Living by the Book*](#), (Book and Workbook) by Howard G Hendricks & William Hendricks – also available as an ebook and a video series. Don't be intimidated by the size of the book. The writing is clear and engaging and you will learn a lot.
- [*How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth*](#), by Gordon Fee & Douglas Stuart – this is a must have resource; no Bible student should be without and it now comes as an e-book. Re-read the chapter for your particular type of passage when you start a new study.

For more bible study resources and to listen to podcasts related to this study, visit:
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Outline

Summary: The author is writing to:

CHAPTER	THEME/MAIN POINTS	KEY VERSE(S)
1		
2		
3		

General Outline

- 1:1-4 Habakkuk's First Complaint: God's People abandoned the Law
- 1:5-11 Lord's First Response: Sending the Babylonians

- 1:12-2:1 Habakkuk's Second Complaint: Why the Wicked Babylonians?
- 2:4-20 Lord's Second Response: Woe to the Unfaithful

- 3:1-19 Habakkuk's Prayer of Response: Exult the Lord

Historical Setting of Habakkuk

Southern Kingdom 931-586 BC	Prophets	Biblical References	Assyrian & Chaldean Kings
Josiah 31 yrs 640-609 BC	Jeremiah Zephaniah	2 Kng 22:1-23:30 2 Chr 34:1-35:27	Ashurbanipal 668-627 BC (Assyrian)
Jehoahaz (Shallum) 3 mos 609 BC	Jeremiah	2 Kng 23:31-34 2 Chr 36:1-4 Jer 22:1-12	Nabopolassar 626-605 BC (Chaldean) 612 BC - conquers Nineveh
Jehoaikim (Eliakim) 11 yrs 609-598 BC	Jeremiah Habakkuk Daniel	2 Kng 23:34-24:7 2 Chr 26:4-8 Jer 22:13-23 Jer 26; 36	Nebuchadnezzar II 605-562 BC (Chaldean) 605 BC - defeats Egypt & Assyria at Carchemish
Jehoiachin (Coniah) 3 mos 598-597 BC	Jeremiah Daniel	2 Kng 25:8-17 2 Chr 36:9; 10 Jer 22:24-30 Jer 52:31-34	597 BC - crushes Jehoiakim's revolt & loots temple
Zedekiah (Mattaniah) 11 yrs 597-586 BC	Jeremiah Daniel Ezekiel	2 Kng 24:17-25:7 2 Chr 36:11-21 Jer 39:1-10 Jer 52:1-11	589 BC - Zedekiah revolts; siege of Jerusalem begins
586 BC Fall of Jerusalem			

Study Tips

Habakkuk's name means "embrace" or "one who strongly enfolds."

Habakkuk is the only book consisting entirely of a dialogue between God and a man. Other prophetic books consist mainly of a record of the prophets' message (preaching) to the people.

Habakkuk and Jeremiah were God's last prophets to Judah before He brought about the invasion by Babylon. Habakkuk gave the "preview of coming attractions" while Jeremiah filled in the details of the "full feature."

Key Words

- Why? (1:3; 1:13; 1:14)
- Faith (2:4)
- Save/Salvation (1:2; 3:8; 3:13; 3:18;)
- Selah (3:3; 3:9; 3:13 - elsewhere only in Psalms)
- LORD/God (12x)

Quotations/Allusions in NT:

Hab 1:5 quoted in Acts 13:41

Hab 2:3 quoted in 2Peter 3:9; Hebrews 10:37-38

Hab 2:4 quoted in Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:37-38

Hab 2:18-19 quoted in 1Corinthians 12:2

Hab 3:17 quoted in Luke 13:6

Notable Contrasts

The letter is bookended by

- Hab 1:1 "How long shall I cry?" and Hab 3:18 "I will exult...I will rejoice.
- Hab 1:2 "You do not save" and Hab 3:18 "The God of my salvation"

Brief Timeline (all dates are BC and approximate)

722: Northern Kingdom of Israel (10 tribes) falls & is exiled to Assyria

627: Jeremiah begins his prophetic ministry

621: Rediscovery of Book of Law; Josiah's reformation

612: Fall of Nineveh, capital of Assyria

609: Death of godly King Josiah

607: Habakkuk begins his prophetic ministry

605: Nebuchadnezzar defeats Pharaoh Necho of Egypt at Battle of Carchemish

605: First invasion of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon; Daniel taken captive

597: Second invasion of Judah by Babylon; Ezekiel and 10,000 taken captive

592: Ezekiel begins his prophetic ministry to Babylonian exiles

586: Fall of Jerusalem, Destruction of Temple

538: Exiles return from Babylon to Judah (relatively small number return)

Lesson 1 - Background

The first lesson in your study of Habakkuk will be explore the historical context of the book, which basically answers the questions: Who? What? Where? When? and Why? You will also outline the book to get a good handle on how the book flows and its main themes. This lesson is designed to study the big picture, so you can accurately understand the parts or particulars of each section.

1. What we know about Habakkuk the prophet and the date of this letter comes from within the book itself. Read through the book and note any time and place references.

Most scholars place Habakkuk during the reign of King Jehoaikim (approximately 609-598 BC). Read the following and note what you learn about the setting of Habakkuk.

2. 2 Kings 23:34-24:7
3. 2 Chronicles 26:4-8
4. Jeremiah 22:13-23
5. Jeremiah 26
6. Jeremiah 36
7. Use a commentary or bible dictionary to read more about Jerusalem and the southern kingdom during this time period.

Lesson 2 - Habakkuk 1:1-2:1

1. Outline & summarize this section in your own words. Note particularly who is speaking when.
2. What is the nature of Habakkuk's initial request (vs 1-3)?
3. Explain the Lord's answer (vs 5-11) in your own words.
4. How are the Chaldeans described?
5. How does Habakkuk respond to God's answer (vs 12-2:1)?
6. Why would Habakkuk be surprised that God is using the Chaldeans to judge His people?

Lesson 3 - Habakkuk 2:1-20

1. Outline & summarize this section in your own words. Note particularly who is speaking when.
2. Why would God want this vision recorded on stone tablets as opposed to scrolls?
3. Habakkuk 2:4 is quoted 3 times in the New Testament. Look up each reference and summarize the point the New Testament author is making with this verse: Romans 1:17; Galatians 3: 11 Hebrews 10:38
4. For each of the 5 woes in 2:5-20, summarize the sin and why it is wrong.
5. Contrast the person of the person of 2:4 with the person of the woes in your own words.
6. How is God's response an answer to Habakkuk's question of why God would use an evil people to judge His people?

Lesson 4 - Habakkuk 3:1-19

1. Outline & summarize this section in your own words.
2. Habakkuk begins his prayer with an historical account of who God is (vs 1-7). What do we learn about God from this description?
3. What do we learn about God's view of sin and rebellion (vs 8-15)?
4. What does Habakkuk's close (vs 16-19) teach you about faith?
5. How is Habakkuk's prayer of faith a response to chapters 1-2?