

P.M. OUTLINE
9 / 24 / 2017

THE BOOK OF HABAKKUK

INTRODUCTION

Habakkuk is a prophet in the southern kingdom of Judah.

Written about 610 BC, just before the 20 year assault on Judah by Babylon (606 BC - 586 BC).
Biblical background is in (2 Kings 23:31 - 24:7) and (2 Chronicles 36:1-8).

Most prophets speak to the people on God's behalf; Habakkuk was unique in that he speaks to God on behalf of the people.

1. HABAKKUK'S FIRST QUESTION (1:1-4)

(1:2) "O Lord, how long shall I cry, and You will not hear? ... "
Habakkuk wrestles with what he knows to be true about God's character
alongside God's apparent tolerance of the violence and injustice in Judah.

2. GOD'S REPLY (1:5-11)

(v5) is quoted by the apostle Paul: (Acts 13:40-41) to show that God will bring judgment.
(v6) "For indeed I am raising up the Chaldeans (Babylon) ... "

3. HABAKKUK'S SECOND QUESTION (1:12-17)

(v12) "Are You not from everlasting ... ?" (v13) "... Why do You look on those who deal
treacherously ... the wicked devour a person more righteous than he?"
Habakkuk argues that God is using a nation more wicked than Judah to punish Judah,
and he wonders if Babylon will get punished for their crimes. (v17)

4. GOD'S REPLY (2:1-20)

(v3) "an appointed time ... wait for it ... it will surely come" - it's God's time-table.
There will be a five-fold woe on Babylon: (v6-8) the plunderer will be plundered,
(v9-11) the haughty conqueror is shamed, (v12-14) the builder's building becomes
fuel for the fire, (v15-17) the one who forced the other to get drunk will drink shame
from the cup of God's wrath, (v18-20) the silent idol is silenced before God.

5. HABAKKUK'S PRAYERFUL SONG (3:1-19)

(v3-16) He praises God for past victories.
(v17-19) No matter the circumstances, "The Lord God is my strength"

CLOSE - God's word is sure, and He will keep His promises.

586 BC - Judah paid for their crimes at the hands of the Chaldeans (Babylon).

539 BC - Chaldeans paid for their crimes at the hands of Cyrus of Persia.