

Old Testament Introduction

The Book of HABAkkUK

Jerry Akers

INTRODUCTION

- 1) Habakkuk means “_____.” Of this, Martin Luther wrote:
“Habakkuk has a right name for his office. For Habakkuk means a heartener, or one who takes another into his heart and his arms, as one soothes a poor, weeping child telling it to be quiet.”
- 2) Like several other minor prophets, little is known about Habakkuk. He was a prophet of Judah, and was probably a contemporary of Nahum and Jeremiah. Because his prophecy has been one of the most influential of the Old Testament, Habakkuk has been called by some a “_____ minor prophet.”
- 3) Habakkuk ministered during a time of great apostasy and wickedness in Judah just prior to the first invasion of the Babylonians. He has also been called the “Prophet with a _____,” the “Doubting _____ of the Old Testament,” and the “_____ Prophet.”
- 4) The Book of Habakkuk is unique among the OT prophecies. Other prophets spoke _____ God _____ man. Habakkuk spoke _____ God about His dealings _____ man.
- 5) All other prophetic books consist mainly of records of the prophets’ preaching. Habakkuk, on the other hand, consists almost entirely of a dialogue between God the prophet. About _____ of his book is a conversation between God and Habakkuk
 - Habakkuk was perplexed with the silence and forbearance of God in permitting the evil ways to Judah to continue (1:1-4).
 - God answers Habakkuk’s query by telling him that He about to bring judgment upon sinful Judah (1:5-11).
 - God’s answer to Habakkuk poses another problem: How can a pure God chastise Judah by means of a nation far more evil than themselves (1:12-2:1).
 -

- To this God replies that He is fully aware of the wickedness of the Chaldeans (*Babylonians*) and that He will bring them into judgment also (2:2-20).
- The prophet closes the book with a prayer of absolute and sublime _____ in the Lord (3:1-19).

AUTHORSHIP

_____ wrote the book. He gives no genealogy, but does call himself a prophet (1:1). Apparently Habakkuk was also a Levite with experience in the music ministry of the Temple (*Habakkuk 3:1, 19*).

RECIPIENTS

Habakkuk probably focused his ministry on the “_____” among Judeans (*Habakkuk 2:4*) rather than on the wicked (*Habakkuk 1:2-4*), upon whom he wished only swift judgment.

DATE OF WRITING

Habakkuk is a difficult prophecy to date precisely. There is no mention the king(s) who reigned during his ministry. Since he does refer to the Chaldeans (*Babylonians*) being stirred up (1:6), it is likely that his ministry was around _____ to _____ B. C.

Note:

- 1st Babylonian invasion = 605—Daniel and others carried away.
- 2nd Babylonian invasion = 597—Ezekiel and others carried away.
- 3rd Babylonian invasion = 586—Jerusalem and Temple destroyed, others carried away with Jeremiah remaining.

PURPOSE OF BOOK

- **Historical** = To comfort the faithful remnant in Judah with the message of Jehovah's future judgment on the wicked Babylonians.
- **Doctrinal** = To teach the holiness and justice of God, and to show that the just live by _____ in Him.
- **Christological** = To picture Christ as the Holy One (**1:12**) and the One Who will some day fill the earth with the "...*the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea*" (**2:14**).

THEME OF THE BOOK

_____ upon Judah and the Chaldeans (*Babylon*).

OUTLINE

- I. Faith Tested (1)
- II. Faith Taught (2)
- III. Faith Triumphant (3)