

Habakkuk 1:1-11

Wondering and Worrying, Part 1: Divine Retribution

Introduction: The Context

1. Verses 1: Habakkuk Means to *Embrace* like an Opponent in Wrestling
2. The Author: We do not know much, besides he was a prophet in the latter half of the 7th Century (v 6)
3. Date of Oracle (Burden): 600-605 BC
4. Contemporaries: Jeremiah
5. **Brief Synopsis of Redemptive History from Solomon:**
 - a. After Solomon, the Kingdom split between North and South (930 BC)
 - b. Assyria Rose to Power and Conquered the Northern Kingdom (722 BC)
 - c. Assyria Marched on the Southern Kingdom, Judah (700 BC)
 - d. King Hezekiah prayed for Deliverance, and God sends One Angel and Kills 185k Soldiers
 - e. Manasseh was Born to Hezekiah – Was an Evil, Evil Ruler
 - f. Amon became king and did as His father
 - g. Josiah was born to Amon – began to rule when 8 years old; 16 years old discovered the Law
 - h. 3 Main Powers in the World: Assyria (decline), Babylon (on the Rise), Egypt (Not Judah)
 - i. Pharaoh Neco II asked to march through Judah to the North, Josiah refused him
 - j. Neco II marches anyway – Judah's army meets him in the Valley of Megiddo (**2 Kgs 22-23**)
 - k. Josiah disguises himself as a soldier and fights with his army – He dies at 39 (609 BC)
 - l. His foolish son, Johanan reenacted idolatry and rebuilt the high places
 - m. Neco II comes back through Judah and takes him off the throne – places Josiah's second born, Jehoiakim on the throne
 - n. Jehoiakim ruled 11 Years – led Judah right into destruction
 - o. Habakkuk receives his oracle during this time

Habakkuk's Complaint (vv 2-4)

Habakkuk Boldly Questions The Lord

1. Question 1: Does God Hear Me When I Pray?
2. Question 2: Does God Care For His People?
3. Question 3: Is God Benevolent And Good?
4. Question 4: Is God Holy? (**see also Hab 1:13**)
5. Question 5: Is God Powerful?
6. Question 6: Where Is God's Word?
7. Question 7: Is God Just?
8. Question 8: Can God Be Trusted?

God's Silence Can Lead to Faulty Presumptions:

1. God is Imagined; He does not exist, God is Dead
2. God is Immoral; Look at the Pain and Suffering
3. God is Impotent; He is Weak and Cannot Help

Habakkuk's Faith

1. He Prays!
2. BECAUSE He Believes! God is ABLE!

God's Response (vv 5-11)

1. International, Cosmic View of Things
2. Behind All Rulers is God, who Directs and Decrees
3. **See Rom 9:17, Is 40:21-23, 2 Chron 20:6, Prv 21:1**
4. God Uses The Chaldeans to Judge
 - a. They were a Bitter People – Hardened (v 6)
 - b. They were a Law unto Themselves (v 7)
 - c. They were Arrogant and Proud (v 8)
 - d. They were Violent (v 9)
 - e. They were Faithless (v 10)
 - f. Their god was Themselves (v 11)

Application

1. God Controls the Earthly Affairs of Men/Nations
2. We Can Trust God – even when things are tough
3. We are Like Judah and Babylon
4. ...But Jesus Took the Wrath of God We Deserved

Main Idea of Habakkuk 1:1-11

Believers can trust God, even when He feels distant or acts in ways contrary to what we think He should do. God hears us when we pray and He always acts in His way and time.