

The Book of HABAKKUK

Run Sinner, Run!

I. Introduction

- A. Nineveh, that powerful nation that took away captive the Northern ten tribes of Israel for her sins, has now been destroyed by the Babylonians.
- B. But the fighting isn't over, and God's justice is not satisfied, for Judah is next, and the command from the Lord by the hand of Habakkuk is, "Run sinner, run!"

II. Introduction to the Book of Habakkuk

- A. Author: Habakkuk under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- B. Date of writing: 606-600 B.C. just after the destruction of Nineveh as foretold by Nahum.
- C. Theme: The coming destruction of Judah by the Babylonians
- D. The significance of the name 'Habakkuk': Means " _____ "
- E. Habakkuk's audience: The tribe of Judah
- F. Habakkuk has three chapters

III. Lesson - "Habakkuk: Run Sinner, Run!"**A. Habakkuk's Request For Answers (1:1-4)**

- 1. Habakkuk sees what lies ahead for his people in Judah and begins his book by directly asking God about the future:
- 2. NOTE: Habakkuk was a man of _____ for his people according to 1:2.
 - a. How long before you do something Lord?
 - b. Why do you let me see all this travesty?

B. The Lord's Reply (1:5-11)

- 1. Look out on the horizon among the heathen for the answer and you will find it, but you won't believe it (1:5)
- 2. NOTE: God does not ignore His servant's cry, but will always answer " _____ ."
- 3. I raise up the _____ (Babylonians) to bring judgement upon Judah (1:5; Cf Acts 13:41)
 - a. They are unmerciful, taking what is not theirs
 - b. Their horses are inescapable (1:8; Jer 4:13)
 - c. Their horsemen are effective in battle (1:8)
 - d. They come to take you away into captivity (1:9)
 - e. They come unafraid of anyone, or anything (1:10)
- 4. But the Babylonians will not last forever. Because Nebuchadnezzar will change his mind and start attributing all of his success to himself and his own Gods instead of to the Lord (Cf Dan 3; Ex 32)

C. Habakkuk's Reasoning (1:12-17)

- 1. Habakkuk accepts that:
 - a. The Lord is not like unto _____ - things that we can relate to and totally comprehend
 - b. Israel is " _____ " from the world system and cannot be completely destroyed as a nation
 - c. God holds the heart of the king in His hand (Pr 21:1)
- 2. But it is not so easy to accept that:
 - a. The Lord would use a _____ to judge His people (1:13)
 - b. The Lord would use an nation that worships anything and everything but Him to carry Judah away into captivity (1:14-17) - a very humiliating situation

D. **Habakkuk's Resolve** (2:1)

1. To wait upon the Lord as a " _____ " (2:1; Cf Ezek 33:1-16; Matt 24:42; 26:41 1Thess 5:6; Rev 16:15)
2. To write the vision (2:2)
 - a. Make it _____, and simple
 - b. Make it _____
 - c. Make it _____ to all to read

NOTE: These are characteristics of the Scriptures

- d. Make it practical - to warn people to " _____ "
 - 1) For sinners, "Flee from the wrath to come" (Matt 3:7)
 - 2) For Christians, run the race that is before us with our eyes on Jesus (Heb 12:1,2)

E. **The Lord's Revelation** - _____ (2:2-4)

1. The just - there is a way for a man to become righteous (See Job 25:4; Romans 1:16,17)
2. Shall live - there is a fulfilled life, free from the curse and bondage of sin and strife (Gal 3:10-13)
3. By his faith - personal relationship that matches "the faith" that was once delivered to the saints (Heb 10:38; Jude 3)

F. **Five Woes Upon Babylon** (2:5-20)

NOTE: Habakkuk here begins a description and prophecy concerning Nebuchadnezzar that doctrinally point to " _____ " yet to come.

1. Woe to him that increases that which is not his (2:5-8)
2. Woe to him that covets (2:9-11)
3. Woe to him that builds with murder and sin (2:12-14)
4. Woe to him that causes others to drink (2:15-17)
5. Woe to him that worships idols (2:18-20)

G. **Habakkuk Reviews God's Marvellous Works In The Past** (3:1-16)

NOTE: Habakkuk's burden turns into prayer. It becomes a prayer for revival.

1. God came from Teman and from mount Paran (Num 20; Dt 33:1,2; Cf Ps 121:1,2)
2. He measured out the earth and divided-up the promised land unto His people by driving out the Canaanites (3:6,7; Cf the Book of Joshua)
3. He parted the Jordan river (3:8-10; Cf Josh 3:12-17)
4. He caused the sun and the moon to stand still (3:11; Cf Josh 10:12,13)
5. He wounded the head of " _____ " (reference to Satan in Gen 3:15)

NOTE: Habakkuk takes a long look back at the history of Israel and sees that the Lord has brought them through so many miraculous times, only now to be brought very low by Babylon.

H. **Habakkuk Resolves To _____ In The Lord** (3:17-19)

1. In spite of failed crops (3:17)
2. In spite of failed livestock (3:17)
3. " _____ I will rejoice in the Lord, in the God of my salvation" (3:18,19)
 - a. This joy is to be found only "in the Lord"
 - b. This joy is based upon the future (3:19)
 - c. This joy is totally independent of earthly possessions (Cf the life of Job)

IV. Brief Summary

- A. Habakkuk starts with Habakkuk crying out to God for an answer as to why God's chosen people are allowed to suffer in this captivity (Habakkuk 1:1-4). The Lord gives His answer to Habakkuk stating, "you wouldn't believe it if I told you" (Habakkuk 1: 5-11).
- B. Habakkuk then follows up by saying, "Ok you are God, but still tell me more about why this is happening" (Habakkuk 1: 17-2:1). God then answers him again and gives him more information then tells the earth to be silent before Him (Habakkuk 2:2-20).
- C. Then Habakkuk writes a prayer that is a psalm because it is set to music that expresses his strong faith in God, even through these trials (Habakkuk 3:1-19).

V. Practical Application

- A. The Book of Habakkuk inspired Martin Luther's reformation and the book "Hinds Feet on High Places" by Hannah Hunnard. The application to the reader today is this, it is ok to question what God is doing. Sometimes it is not evident to us what is going on. Especially if we are thrown into suffering for a period of time or if it seems our enemies are prospering while we are just barely getting by.
- B. This book however, affirms that God is God. We just need to be still and know He is at work. He is who He says He is and does keep His promises. He will punish the wicked. Even when we cannot see it, He is at work. We need to stay focused on this, "The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments" (Habakkuk 3:16-19). Enabling us to go on the heights is taking us to the higher places with Him where we are set apart from the world. Sometimes the way we have to go to get us there is through suffering and sorrow but if we rest in Him and trust Him we come out where He wants us.

VI. The Next Book - The Book of Zephaniah