

Truth Triumphant

The Book of Habakkuk

J. G. Sahl

I. The Basics About The Book

- A. This book derives its title from the human author Habakkuk whose name means “embracer” which is reflective of his love and devotion to the Lord.
- B. This book provides us with the all biblical information that we have on this man.
- C. This book was written by Habakkuk between 626 BC to 607 BC when the southern kingdom of Judah was increasing in wickedness and Babylon was rising in its power.
 - 1. It was written during the decline of the Kingdom of Judah (626-586 BC).
 - 2. It was written during the rise of the Babylonian Empire but before its domination of the Assyrian Empire.
- D. This book is one of the most exquisite pieces of Hebrew poetry in the Scriptures.
- E. This book records the personal struggles of Habakkuk, a righteous man, during the decline of Judah and the Lord’s dealing with sin.
- F. This book was written for the benefit of the people of the kingdom of Judah and the subsequent generations of the people of God.
- G. This book declares the Lord’s sovereign rule over all the nations of the earth as He executes justice in the world.
- H. This book deals with the questions concerning the existence of evil and the holy character of God.
- I. This book declares the reality of God’s judgment upon all wickedness.
- J. This book declares the proper response of the righteous in the midst of the difficulties and perplexities of life.
- K. This book affirms that the people of God are to live by faith.

II. The Structure of the Book

- A. The Key Verse:

Habakkuk 2:4

- B. The Key Words: Chaldeans, justice, righteous, violence, why, woe.

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- C. The Breakdown of the Book
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| 1. | The Introduction | Habakkuk 1:1 |
| 2. | The Perplexity of the Prophet | Habakkuk 1:2-2:20 |
| a. | The First Problem for the Prophet | Habakkuk 1:2-11 |
| | (1) The Question of the Prophet | Habakkuk 1:2-4 |
| | (2) The Answer of the Lord | Habakkuk 1:5-11 |
| b. | The Second Problem for the Prophet | Habakkuk 1:12-2:20 |
| | (1) The Question of the Prophet | Habakkuk 1:12-2:1 |
| | (2) The Answer of the Lord | Habakkuk 2:2-20 |
| 3. | The Prayer of the Prophet | Habakkuk 3:1-19 |
| a. | The Petition of the Prophet | Habakkuk 3:1-2 |
| b. | The Praise of the Prophet | Habakkuk 3:3-15 |
| c. | The Perspective of the Prophet | Habakkuk 3:16-19 |

III. The Major Theme of the Book

- A. The Human Standpoint: the walk of faith in light of the Lord's unexplained dealings among the nations.
- B. The Divine Standpoint: the sovereign rule of the Lord over all peoples to accomplish His purpose.
- C. The Authorial Purpose: to encourage steadfast faith in the righteous during the perplexing trials of life as they wait upon the Lord to establish His glory in the world.