

The Prophet of Faith

Habakkuk

PROPOSITION: God will punish wicked Judah by even more wicked Babylon, but the righteous will live by his faith.

INTRODUCTION:

1. In this book is the only place in the Bible that the name "Habakkuk" is found.
2. Habakkuk's home and occupation are unknown, though he identifies himself as "the prophet" (1:1).
3. He voices complaints of the people to Jehovah God.
4. He was the last prophet before the fall of Jerusalem.
5. Outline:
 - a. Look and See: God's Judgment upon Judah (chp. 1)
 - b. Stand and See: God's Judgment upon the Chaldeans (chp. 2)
 - c. Kneel and See: Prayer for Compassion in the Midst of Judgment (chp. 3)
6. Key Verse: 2:4
7. Habakkuk appears as a skeptic.

DISCUSSION: God Answers a Skeptic

I. Habakkuk Questions

- A. Where is God (1:2)?
- B. Why do the wicked prosper and the righteous suffer (1:3)?
- C. Are You not powerful (1:12)?
- D. Are You not pure (1:13)?
- E. How long will You wait (1:17)?

II. God Replies

- A. Write the message and make it plain (2:2).
- B. The Chaldeans will suffer five "woes."
 1. The plunderer will be plundered (2:6-8).
 2. The conqueror will be shamed (2:9-11).
 3. The builder will be undone (2:12-14).
 4. The shameless will be shamed (2:15-18).
 5. The idolater will be silenced (2:19, 20).
- C. "The righteous will live by his faith" (2:4).

III. Habakkuk Prays

- A. The book opens in gloom, but closes in glory.
- B. Chapter 3 begins, "A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet..."
- C. What begins in the next verse is an acrostic psalm (song).
- D. It is a song about...
 1. The appearance of a divine warrior (3:3-15)
 2. Living by faith (3:16-19)

CONCLUSION:

1. Habakkuk's message is: Listen to God.
2. The last three verses give one of the greatest statements of faith found in the Bible.

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