

Bible Reading Notes
Habakkuk

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Habakkuk 1

Habakkuk's ministry was prior to the Babylonian invasion of Israel. Babylon (Chaldeans) were exerting dominance over Assyria and would soon defeat Egypt to become the world power of their day.

1:1-4 – Habakkuk cries out to the Lord to bring justice because Israel is living in faithless disobedience.

1:5-11 – God says that he will bring justice to sinful Israel and he will use the Babylonians to accomplish it.

1:5 – **a work in your day** – Paul quotes this verse in Acts 13:41 when he preached in Antioch Pisidia on his first missionary journey. He applied this verse to the great work God was doing through Christ.

1:12-2:1 – Habakkuk complains against the Lord's plan. How can the Lord use a people even more sinful than Israel to judge her?

Habakkuk 2

2:3 – **appointed time** – This is a reference to when the Babylonians would be conquered by Medo-Persia in 539 BC. The fulfillment of God's plan will not come immediately, but it will come.

- 2:4 – live by his faith** – The key for God’s people in the coming crisis is to entrust themselves to God. This is quoted several times in the New Testament in contrast to gaining righteousness by good works.
- 2:6ff** – The Lord recognizes the wickedness of the Chaldeans and will bring judgment against them as well. This is revealed through the use of five “woes” against Babylon (vv. 6, 9, 12, 15, 19).
- 2:14** – Some see this verse finding fulfillment in the new heaven and new earth. I believe that the New Testament indicates that this had significant fulfillment in the gospel going to the nations.

Habakkuk 3

- 3:1-16** – Habakkuk remembers the work of God for his people in the past as a means of assurance. He reflects on Israel’s journey from Egypt to Sinai (vv. 3-7), the parting of the Jordan River (vv. 8-10), and the conquest of the Promised Land (vv. 11-15).
- 3:17-19** – Habakkuk accepts the Lord’s plan and expresses his faith in the God of his salvation. We are called to live by faith (2:4) every day. The proof of our faith is seen when a crisis hits our lives. Are you willing to rejoice with Habakkuk in faith today (3:17-19)?