

The Floral Heights Informer

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Habakkuk

“The righteous shall live by faith”

Habakkuk 2:4

The Prophet and Date of Letter

The name Habakkuk means “embrace or embracer” (ISBE v. 2, pp. 583). There is absolutely no information about the background or person of Habakkuk recorded. A general date may be determined by readings such as Habakkuk 1:5-11. Jehovah would raise the Babylonians (Chaldeans) to great power. The language appears as though Babylon had already been involved in great warfare, conquering nations, and dreaded as Assyria once was. Nineveh, the great city of Assyria, was conquered by Babylon during the year 612 BC. Babylon’s “rise” to power began at this point. Judah would not feel the actual brunt of Babylon until 605 BC (the year the Egyptians were defeated at Carchemish by Nebuchadnezzar / cf. Jer. 46:2) (cf. Dan. 1:1ff; II Chron. 36:6ff). Though the Lord had pronounced the end of Judah during the days of Manasseh (i.e., 695 – 645 BC) it would not take place for another 40 years. An exact date is impossible to conclude from the facts that are given. The Date of Habakkuk is likely between the fall of Nineveh (i.e., 612 BC) and first attack on Judah (605 BC). Josiah would have been at the end of his good reign as king of Judah (640 to 609 BC.). Judah experienced great peace and achieved many religious reforms under Josiah by the year 621 BC (cf. II Kings 22:1-23:25). Nebuchadnezzar’s determination to put Egypt in subjugation eventually meant taking Judah. Habakkuk, thereby, appears to be a contemporary with Zephaniah, Jeremiah, and possibly Nahum.

Theme of Habakkuk

Habakkuk is a recorded conversation and prayer between the prophet and Jehovah God. Habakkuk does not understand why God has seemingly ignored his complaint against Judah (Hab. 1:2-3).

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors. We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please come back at your every opportunity.

Pam Husak's surgery went well this past Wednesday. She will be in a recovery process for quite a while. She is currently in room 390 at the United Regional Hospital.

Nina Grey is scheduled to have knee replacement surgery May 29th (pending the outcome of an upcoming stress test). Continue to pray for her as well.

Continue to keep **Hobie and Joni Miller** in your prayers.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home).

Bessie Murphy
4600 Taft Blvd, Apt. 538

The prophet complains that Judah continues in their violence, perversion, and causing the law to cease to exist (i.e., law is slacked) through a lack of use and knowledge and God seems to be indifferent (cf. Hab. 1:4).

Jehovah answers Habakkuk's complaint by revealing His sovereignty over all creation and the kingdoms of men. God will punish Judah by "*raising up the Chaldeans*" to great power (Hab. 1:6). These Babylonians will be bitter, terrible, and dreadful (Hab. 1:6-7). Judah will not get away with her sin. Habakkuk is not completely satisfied with the answer Jehovah gives and thereby has another complaint (cf. Hab. 2:1). Habakkuk does not understand how a just and righteous God could use such a perverted nation as Babylon to accomplish His will. The Chaldeans were filled with pride (Hab. 1:9-11; 2:4; Jer. 50:29-31) and worshipped the god of might (Hab. 1:10-11). Babylon killed, conquered, and plundered other nations for "*evil gain*" (Hab. 2:9). The prophet understands that God has "*established him (Babylon) for correction*" and "*ordained him for judgment*" (cf. Hab. 2:12). What remains a myth to Habakkuk is how a just God could look upon the perverseness of nations such as Babylon and actually use them to accomplish His ends. God answers the prophet by explaining His sovereign reign over not only animals, rocks, and people but also the kingdoms of men. All things are at God's disposal to punish the wicked and reward the faithful.

The righteous shall live by faith

The final chapter of Habakkuk is a prayer on behalf of the prophet to his God. Habakkuk's conversation with God has proved beneficial. He now understands better the sovereignty of God and thereby prays a fervent prayer. He recognizes that God's will is to destroy the wicked of Judah with a nation of greater wickedness than they. His conclusion is one of the greatest statements of faith found in the Bible. Considering the sure calamity that is coming upon the people of God the prophet writes, "*Yet I will rejoice in Jehovah, I will joy in the God of my salvation. Jehovah, the Lord, is my strength; and he makes my feet like hinds feet, and will make me to walk upon my high places*" (Hab. 3:18-19). Faith in God and His promises is the very thing that keeps Christians today afloat in this wicked and godless society that we live in. Let the righteous today "*live by his faith*" and look to the eternal promises of God (Hab. 2:4). Forgiveness of sins will be our ticket into the eternal heavens with the Lord. Herein is the great strength of the Christian through Jesus Christ (cf. Phil. 4:13).

John C. Robertson