

May 30/ 2010

Habakkuk From Fear to Faith

Scripture: Habakkuk 1:1-4
Pg. 785 in the pew Bible

Introductory thoughts

As we listen to the news these days and look around at what is going on in our world, we as Christians can't help but ask; 'What are you doing God?' Many of us today struggle with the problem of history, both in our own lives and in the world around us. God has never wanted us to struggle with this - so He has spoken to us through His word to give us hope.

Understanding Habakkuk

The Historical Context – see 2 Kings 22-25; 2 Chronicles 34-36

IMMEDIATE HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- probably written between 610 - 606 B.C.
- written either during the reign of Josiah (640-609) or Jehoiakim (609-597)
- Habakkuk was a contemporary of 3 other prophets = Jeremiah; Zephaniah & Nahum and possibly even Daniel as Daniel was carried off to Babylon in 597 B.C.

LARGER HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- Assyria had conquered the Northern Kingdom (Israel) in 722 B.C. (Israel had separated from Judah in 931 B.C.)
- In 612 B.C. the Assyrian capital of Nineveh fell to Babylon
- In 609 B.C. Josiah is killed on the plains of Megiddo by Egyptian troops
- In 586 B.C. Jerusalem would fall to Babylon

Life in Israel and Judah

What the Apostle Paul said about the Old Testament: Romans 15: 4

Habakkuk' s Big Issue: 1:1-4

Sermon HD Questions:



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Sermon HD Questions:



1. Think about the last time you felt frustrated over a personal, social, or national injustice. What did you do to ease your frustration?
2. Which of Habakkuk's words have an accusing tone?
3. Describe the injustice that appalled Habakkuk?
4. What were Habakkuk's specific complaints against God?
6. What prevented the righteous people in Judah from curbing the violence?
7. Give some examples of how righteous people can be surrounded and justice goes forth perverted? (Consider the family, workplace, neighborhood, nation)
8. How would you boil down Habakkuk's complaints into one simple question?
9. What must we understand about the central theme of the whole Bible? If we do that, will we have peace?

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