

Bible Helps

Habakkuk

What is the book of Habakkuk?

This Old Testament book records a series of prayers made by the prophet Habakkuk and the Lord's responses to those prayers. It might be helpful to think about this short book as somewhat of a prayer journal the prophet put down and kept. At the same time, it needs to be acknowledged that it is more than just a mere "journal." It is also divine revelation. In this book we learn something of God, His dealings with Judah, and how He handles and uses the Chaldeans.

While Habakkuk is only 3 chapters long there is a lot here. It packs a punch! It is also timely. The message of this prophet is a message we need to hear in our day. Now this is not a book that's going to tease out for you how you should handle your money or how you should respond to other people while in conflict. It's a book that's going to focus in on the power and authority of God. It's a book that's going to highlight God's sovereignty over the nations and His deep immense love for His people. In it you will also see a prophet genuinely wrestle with the plans and purposes of God and who, in the end, submits himself to those plans and purposes in faith.

This book raises any number of issues. What are some of these issues?

- Injustice against God's people.
- The wickedness of the nations.
- The character/attributes of God.
- The need for God's people to live by faith.
- How God's people must wrestle with Him in prayer.
- The need and means of revival.
- Trusting God in difficult times.

Is there a way to outline the book? Yes, here it is...

1:1-4: Habakkuk's first prayer.

1:5-11: God's first response.

1:12-2:1: Habakkuk's second prayer.

2:2-20: God's second response.

3:1-19: Habakkuk's third prayer. Within this prayer there is a prayer for revival and then a prayer of praise to God for His power and comfort.

What are some good resources on this book?

Faith Amid Ruins by Heath Thomas

Habakkuk and Zephaniah by Cyril Barber

Habakkuk by Ken Fentress