

Habakkuk

Who, When, Where

Written by Habakkuk. We don't really know anything about Habakkuk other than he was a prophet of Yahweh and lived a bit before 600BC.

We're not sure, but we think Habakkuk was written about 620BC. Towards the end of the divided kingdom and about 20 years or so before the Babylonians invaded Israel and took them all captive.

We think Habakkuk probably lived in Jerusalem.

Summary

The prophet Habakkuk has a conversation with Yahweh about why he tolerates the wicked people that Habakkuk sees everywhere in Israel. Don't you see them? Why don't you do something to stop them?

It's a fair question, but we might not like the answer.

People usually define "rich" as someone who has more than twice what they do. And we usually define "wicked" as people whose sins are more obvious than ours.

Yahweh defines wicked as people who sin. Period.

That includes us.

Given that definition... do you still want God to wipe out the wicked?

Before You Read

Habakkuk's question implies that he thinks that God is not doing enough to stop the wicked prevailing over the righteous. It's kind of like "If I was God I would do something about it."

God did something about it once. He sent a flood that removed the wicked from the planet. Want that again?

We are all wicked.

God IS doing something. He sent Yeshua to save all the wicked on the planet. Our problem is that we don't like his time schedule. He has a plan. It is unfolding exactly as he wants. But we want it now. Not in another 100 or 1000 years.

So the week before you were saved.... There was someone who wanted God's plan to be fulfilled NOW. Aren't you glad it wasn't? Where would you have been then?

Key Verses

Habakkuk 1:4

The law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails...

Ever feel like that? Watch the news? It's hard to feel any other way with our modern society isn't it.

Habakkuk 2:4

Behold, his soul is puffed up. It is not upright in him, but the righteous will live by his faith.

Whaaat? Even though he is not upright the righteous will live by faith... Isn't that the opposite of what God has been saying? Don't Israel live by Law?

Yahweh has said this is a vision for the end times. Now.

Paul quoted this in Romans and Galatians. Our righteousness comes from Yeshua, not from ourselves. So even though we are not righteous in ourselves, Yahweh sees us as fully, 100% righteous.

Awesome.

Habakkuk 3:17-18

*For though the fig tree doesn't flourish,
nor fruit be in the vines;
the labor of the olive fails,
the fields yield no food;
the flocks are cut off from the fold,
and there is no herd in the stalls:
yet I will rejoice in Yahweh.*

Almost every other religion in the world revolves around, "if you please your god he will bless you and make your life good".

Their gods serve them.

Yahweh is God. The ONLY God. We serve and worship him because of that, not to get his blessing but because he alone deserves to be worshipped.

So whether we think he blesses us or not, we worship him.

After You Read

What verses really stood out to you?

How would you summarize this book in a sentence or two? What is it about? What is God trying to say to us?

What questions do you have for Yahweh?

Have you asked him?

There is nothing in Habakkuk which implies that Yahweh was upset that he was asking. In fact, he answered the questions.

Habakkuk 2:4 has turned out to be a hugely important verse of the Bible. It was this verse which helped Martin Luther realise that he was saved by faith in Yeshua and not by membership in the Catholic church ... leading to what we call the Protestant church.

How about you? Do you get it? Do you see why he was so excited?

It's not about what you do. Your salvation is 100% about what Yeshua already did. Your salvation is guaranteed.

Awesome.