

HABAKKUK (Student Edition)

- I. The Questions of Habakkuk 1:1--2:20
 - A. The First Question 1:1-4
 - B. God's First Reply 1:5-11
 - C. The Second Question of Habakkuk 1:12--2:1
 - D. God's Second Reply 2:2-20
- II. The Praise of Habakkuk 3
 - A. Habakkuk Prays for God's Mercy 3:1-2
 - B. Habakkuk Remembers God's Mercy 3:3-15
 - C. Habakkuk Trusts in God's Salvation 3:16-19

AUTHOR & WHEN THE BOOK WAS WRITTEN-

Nothing is known about the prophet Habakkuk except his name, which means, 'embrace' and that he probably was a contemporary of Jeremiah and Zephaniah. The musical notation in 3:19 may indicate he was qualified to lead _____ as a member of the Levitical family. He was surely a sensitive poet as well as a _____ for God. His little book is a literary masterpiece that points people of all ages to _____ and _____. Since the book speaks of the coming destruction of Judah, it had to be written some time before the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem in 587 B.C. The most likely time for its composition is probably about _____

ABOUT THE BOOK, BASIC THEMES, & TRUTHS & APPLICATIONS-

This awesome, prophetic book of the Old Testament deals with the age-old problem of _____ and gives the account of a spiritual journey, telling of one man's pilgrimage from _____. The difference between the beginning (1:1-4) and the end of the book (3:17-19) is striking. Habakkuk begins his book with a cry of woe. Injustice is rampant, the righteous are surrounded by the wicked, the law is powerless, and _____ about the plight of the righteous of His people. Men are in control, and evil ones at that. They act as one would expect men to act _____. God's reply brings little comfort to the prophet. He explains that the armies of Babylon are moving throughout the ancient world on a campaign of death and destruction. At the time when Habakkuk received this vision, the Babylonians had already defeated Assyria and Egypt. The implication is that Habakkuk's nation, Judah, will be the next to fall. He is shocked by this and pleads for mercy. He reminded God of His justice and holiness (1:12-13). God assures Habakkuk that the Babylonians will prevail not because they are righteous but because they are _____ of judgment in His hands (2:4). Then he pronounces five burdens of woe against the Babylonians (2:6,9,12,15,19). God will not be mocked; the end of the Babylonians is as certain as the judgment they will bring on Judah. In all of this, God will _____: "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" (2:14).

After this assurance, Habakkuk breaks out with the beautiful psalm of praise because _____. And he is no longer anxious over his circumstances. He has fixed his hope _____, for God does take interest in His creatures. He has followed a path we should all learn from: he has gone from _____, from doubt to trust, _____, from the valley to the high hills. He has ultimately gone from _____! If the heart of the gospel is transformation, the Book of Habakkuk demonstrates it. At the center of the change and at the center of the book is the clear credo of faith: "The just shall live by his faith" (2:4). By this faith, the prophet goes beyond just trust- it signifies _____, _____, and steadfastness under all provocations. This statement of living by faith became, for _____, the watchword for _____. Ultimately, the book of Habakkuk is unlike all other prophetic books because it is not a prophecy! It is several pages out of a _____! It reminds us of the importance of a _____ of meeting with God- a time spent meditating on the Scriptures, praying and _____ to what _____ to us may be. It reminds us that we should _____ and hold fast to them, knowing they will come to pass. We should determine to respond to circumstances, no matter how devastating, by _____, thanking God for _____, as Habakkuk did. This book proves we can _____ and even rejoice in them, by focusing on God. Perhaps, for our generation, this teaches the greatest lesson: if you ask, "Why?" the answer will be found _____, and Him alone. Do not ask, "Why?" if you are only looking to blame someone.

A POSSIBLE KEY WORD, KEY VERSE(S) & CHAPTER-

For me, there can be, because of our discussion above, only one key phrase: _____. This becomes my key verse: _____. My key chapter reflects the _____ of the prophet to God's answer to his question, his arrival from complaint to confidence: _____.

JESUS REVEALED IN THE BOOK-

_____ uses Hebrew terms that join the idea of salvation with the Lord's anointed. This speaks of Jesus ("_____") Christ ("_____"). Also, the term "the just shall live by his faith" speaks of the gospel, that we will be saved and lived eternally by faith in Jesus.

THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALED IN THE BOOK-

The ministry of the prophet, the speaking of God to him and "revelation" (2:2) is all the working of the Spirit. Also, _____.

A MESSAGE OUTLINE ON HABAKKUK

1) Habakkuk begins by whining (1:1-4)

- A) _____
- B) _____
- C) Why does God put up with hypocritical, so-called believers?

2) God Responds (1:5-11)

- A) God will judge half-hearted believers
- B) _____

3) Habakkuk whines again (1:12-17)

- A) _____
- B) If the unbelievers succeed, people may think being an unbeliever is better than being a child of God
- C) _____

Key moment (2:1): Habakkuk has enough Godliness inside himself to know that he may be _____. He quiets himself to hear what God has to say about it- _____.

4) God responds again (2:2-20)

- A) Success of unbelievers now is only short-lived: they will get their own

B) Key Statement: _____

- C) A series of **woes: to the greedy** (5-8)- success will not bring satisfaction; **to the complacent** (9-11)- they have a false sense of security; **to the violent** (12-14); **to the shameless** (15-17)- they may exalt in the shame of others, but they will be exposed to disgrace; **to idolaters** (18-20).

5) Key Point: _____ (3)!

Main points: This book shows us the journey from whining to worship. It teaches us that we can ask "Why?". But for the ungodly, "why" has no meaning except to assess blame. The godly ask it and find their answer on God and their trust grows stronger as they hear their God say, "Believe Me, I am trustworthy!"