

Habakkuk, PROPHET OF FAITH
THE PROPHET'S PERPLEXITY
(Habakkuk 1:1-2:1)

- I. Background and Setting (Hab. 1:1)
 - A. Prophet's name means "to EMBRACE"
 - B. His message is characterized as a "BURDEN" (KJV) which he "SAW"
 - C. He probably wrote during the reign of JEHOIAKIM
 - D. He records his personal DISPUTE with GOD
- II. Habakkuk's COMPLAINT (Hab. 1:2-4)
 - A. God has not ANSWERED the prophet's CRY
 - B. God seems INDIFFERENT to the people's SIN
 - 1. The culture is characterized by VIOLENCE, INIQUITY, WICKEDNESS and DESTRUCTION
 - 2. The LAW is being IGNORED
 - 3. JUSTICE is being PERVERTED
- III. God's RESPONSE (Hab. 1:5-11)
 - A. God affirms His UNIVERSAL SOVEREIGNTY
 - 1. He is controlling the NATIONS
 - 2. If they will PAY ATTENTION, they will be ASTOUNDED
 - B. God insists the Chaldean ascendancy is HIS DOING
 - 1. They are FIERCE and impetuous INVADERS
 - 2. They are DREADED and FEARED

3. They recognize no AUTHORITY but their own
4. Their army is SWIFT and DEADLY
5. They scoop up CAPTIVES like SAND
6. They are INTIMIDATED by neither KING nor FORTRESS

C. God promises Chaldean DOMINANCE (cf. Deut. 28:49)

D. God also promises Chaldean ACCOUNTABILITY

IV. Habakkuk's PERPLEXITY/BEWILDERMENT/CONFUSION (Hab. 1:12 – 2:1)

A. He acknowledges God's AUTHORITY

1. He is ETERNAL and HOLY
2. He is TRUTHFUL and SOVEREIGN
3. He is JUST and RIGHTEOUS

B. He admits he is CONFUSED

1. He asks, "How could God use such WICKED people to punish those more RIGHTEOUS than they?"
2. He REMINDS God of their WICKEDNESS

C. He commits himself to WAITING for an ANSWER

1. He would STAND his POST.
2. He expects to be REPROVED
3. He is determined to RESPOND PROPERLY

V. Lessons

A. God is never doing NOTHING, but we don't always UNDERSTAND what He's doing

B. Even when we don't know WHAT God is DOING, we must never forget WHO God IS