

Outline of Habakkuk

1:1-2:5 Habakkuk and God Dialogue
 2:6-20 Mocking Song of the Nations
 3:1-19 Hymn Extolling Yahweh's Ways

Author

Habakkuk was written to Judah (Southern Kingdom). The demise of the Northern Kingdom in 722 BC, plus the imminent Babylonian threat (1:6; 2:1; 3:16) help us determine the time frame of the book. That is, the reference to the Chaldeans (Babylonians) coming in ferocity (1:6) suggests a date prior to the first incursion into Judah in 605 BC. It appears the book was written between 612-605 BC. Though much of the content of Habakkuk is not unique, the means he uses to communicate is. While most OT prophets proclaimed divine judgment, Habakkuk pleaded for divine judgment. The majority of the book consists of a dialogue between Habakkuk and Yahweh. He asked penetrating questions, and the answers are basic to a proper view of God, and His relation to history.

Summary

The times of Habakkuk were characterized by threats from without, and corruption from within. The Assyrians were declining and the Babylonians were on the rise. Habakkuk embraced the problem of divine justice in the world. His concerns were more philosophical.

HABAKKUK

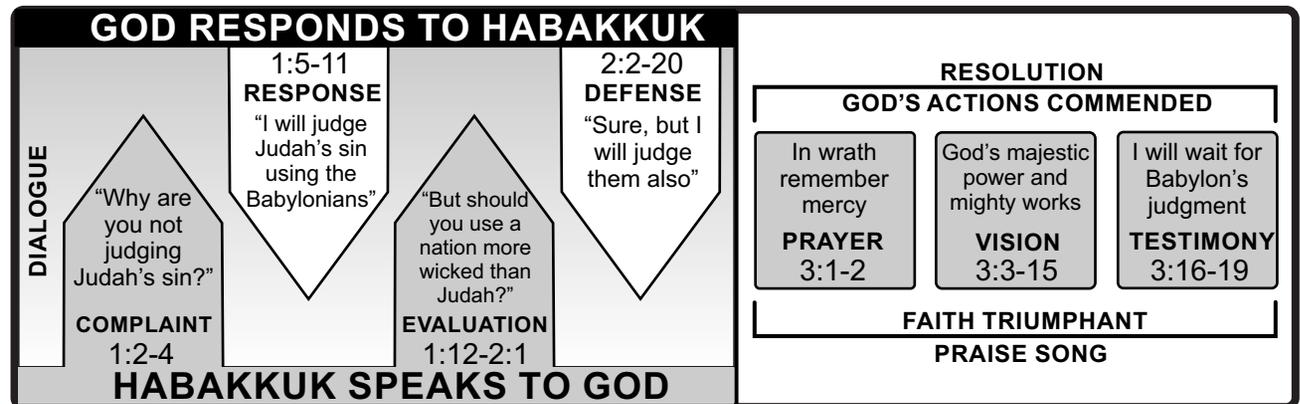
Habakkuk's vindication of the justice of God while permitting evil to exist. He shows that God is righteous to judge His people. God's sovereignty is not always readily apparent, therefore faith in God is essential.

He was disturbed that the sovereign Lord was not responding to his evil generation and its many injustices. How could God use a more wicked nation (Babylon) than Judah to punish His chosen people (1:12-2:1). The Lord responded that He eventually would punish the Babylonians for their wickedness too (2:2-20). The final chapter is a hymn of praise extolling Yahweh

appearances. Pride is destructive in spite of appearances. What is God doing? He is causing things to work out in harmony with the principle set forth in 2:4 in spite of appearances. Habakkuk started out thinking God was not doing anything. He thought God had forgotten the faithful, but broke out in praise realizing he could continue to trust God in spite of

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for His wise ways. Habakkuk's complaint was why God was not doing what He promised to do. Every believer faces the same question in their lives. Habakkuk saw the proud flourishing, while the righteous, who were trusting God, were oppressed and persecuted. What disturbed him the most was that he saw God doing nothing about it. In Habakkuk's crisis of faith, God spoke and gave him the truth of 2:4. Faith is the principle that leads to life in spite of all

appearances. Habakkuk did not end in frustration, but with faith (3:17-18). God's promises are a better indication of reality than outward circumstances.

CHRIST IN HABAKKUK

- Hk.3:13 provides God's answer to Habakkuk's complaints. God will provide salvation through His coming anointed One, the Messiah Jesus Christ.