**Habakkuk**

A story of questioning, waiting and trusting in God's Sovereignty.

**History:** The Babylonians (Chaldeans) have considerable military and political power. Nahum's prophesy was fulfilled - Nineveh was defeated, and the Babylonians conquered the Assyrians. Over a century before, the Assyrians conquered Israel, and the Northern Kingdom has been in captivity ever since. Judah (the Southern Kingdom) was spared as they followed the Lord. King Josiah turned to the Lord and implemented Spiritual reform in the nation; however, now Judah is ruled by King Jehoiakim (Josiah's son), who disregards God, and evil is rampant. A series of evil kings follow Jehoiakim (see page 85 of our study book). Habakkuk was written sometime between 612 – 588 BC.

Habakkuk's name means "the embracer, a wrestler." He openly questions the workings of God.

**Question/Complaint One:**

How long, Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? (Habakkuk 1:1)

A common question many believers have: Where are you when I need you?

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is an integral part of following God.
2. How does a good God allow \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? (Hab 1:1-4)

Habakkuk asks questions that contradict his view of the Father's heart. Questioning things you don't understand to align your heart with His is a good idea.

**God's First Answer:**

God is going to do something unexpected. "For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told." (Habakkuk 1:5)

1. God sometimes gives us the answer we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

God is raising the Babylonians—guilty people whose own strength is their god. (Habakkuk 1:11)

**Question/Complaint Two**:

1. Habakkuk \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about God's plan and actively \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for an answer. (Hab 1:13)
2. Habakkuk \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for God to answer.

Habakkuk waits with expectation (Hab 2: 1-2)

How many of you, too, need to hear God's answer? The answer in this ancient text is written for us too.

**God's Final Answer**

God wants us to know He is omniscient, that He cares and has a good and miraculous plan—In the end, there will be absolute justice for all.

Key Verse 2:4 -" Look at the proud they trust in themselves and their lives are crooked, but **the righteous one will live by faith**.” They will Trust in Me." Our salvation is based on this verse. Centuries later, Paul wrote this again in Romans 1:17 and Galatians 3:1. Martin Luther used this verse in 1517 as the cornerstone of the Reformation.

1. It's all about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Habakkuk's Response to God – Chapter 3**

This book begins with a sob and ends with a song. He sees God's glory and surrenders to His better and bigger way.

1. Nothing around Habakkuk has changed; \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Habakkuk shifts his attention away from his problems and to God. He now has God in clear focus, giving him a new perspective that enables Him to live differently. Let's unpack these truths together—Habakkuk's song of praise.

**5 Statements of Faith by Chuck Swindoll**

1. God is able; I am not.
2. God knows what is best. I do not.
3. God sees the end from the beginning; I cannot.
4. God should have His way in this situation; I should not.
5. God must be glorified through this; I must not.

If you believe these 5 lines, it could change your life.

"The Sovereign Lord is my strength: He makes my feet like the feet of a deer, He enables me to tread on the heights." (3:19)

It's not about us; there is a bigger and better story. Live above it. Live beyond it and trust God through it. Let's live like Habakkuk pray, wait, listen and trust our Sovereign God.

Main Message:

To show that God is still in control of the world despite the apparent triumph of evil and to know that Faith in God is what matters.

Habakkuk Questions

1. What are some of the big questions you tend to wrestle with?
2. What prayers are you waiting for God to answer?
3. What has Habakkuk taught you about the waiting process?
4. Has God ever given you the answer you didn't want?
5. Ten years from now, if your situation doesn't change, how would you want to change?
6. Is it ok to question God? Have you ever questioned God?
7. Do you take time to be quiet to hear from God?