

HABAKKUK

GOALS OF THE LESSON:

1. Visualize the dialogue between Habakkuk and God.
2. Recognize the uniqueness of this book.
3. See Habakkuk's attitude of joy in the midst of coming disaster.

Introduction: We know nothing about Habakkuk's personal life. His name means "embrace," and nothing is known of his home or occupation. Habakkuk prophesied between 612-606 B.C., just before the first captivity of Judah by Babylon. For an understanding of the political nature at this time, refer to the introduction of the prophet Zephaniah.

Homer Hailey in his book A Commentary On The Minor Prophets states well the nature of the book. Hailey writes, "The book of Habakkuk differs from other books of prophecy in one special aspect. Instead of taking Jehovah's message directly to the people, he takes the complaint of the people to Jehovah, representing them in the complaint. The lawlessness and injustice in Judah and Jerusalem and the rising power of Babylon, as it was ruthlessly sweeping everything before its mighty move for conquest, sent the prophet to Jehovah with his problem of faith."

The Survey Chart:

Take your Bible and skim through the book of Habakkuk, looking at the subheadings of each paragraph in each chapter. Record a few main events from each chapter on the diagonal lines of the survey chart.

1. As you fill out your survey chart, what do you think is the theme of the book?

1:1-4 In the space below, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

2. Explain Habakkuk's complaint.

Life Application:

3. In what ways is Habakkuk's complaint similar to how we feel?

1:5-11 In the space below, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

4. Explain the Lord's answer to Habakkuk's complaint.

1:12-2:1 In the space below, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

5. Explain Habakkuk's second complaint.

6. Explain the images found in 1:14-17.

Life Application:

7. Notice Habakkuk says, "And what I will answer when I am reproved" in 2:1. What application can we make to ourselves about our attitude when we talk to God?

2:2-20 In the space below, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

8. Explain God's answer to Habakkuk's complaint found in 2:2-3.

9. Explain the phrase in 2:4, "the righteous will live by faith" as used in this context.

10. Looking at 2:5, the Babylonians were fond of drinking, but here the passage is not speaking of literal wine. Noticing the context of the chapter, what "wine" is being spoken of that the Babylonians are intoxicated by?

11. Explain the five "woes" listed in this chapter.

12. Explain the significance of 2:20.

3:1-19 In the space below, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Point of Interest:

Imagine you have been told by God that the United States of America was going to be destroyed by a savage, godless people very shortly. How would you react? In chapter 3, notice the reaction of Habakkuk to this same news from God about Judah.

13. Notice 3:16-19.

a. Explain the two reactions of Habakkuk to the news of the destruction of Judah.

b. How is Habakkuk able to “rejoice in the Lord” when he knows his nation will be destroyed?

Life Application:

14. How can we apply the reaction of Habakkuk to our lives when we receive bad news or bad times occur?

MAIN POINTS TO REMEMBER FROM THIS LESSON:

1. We can talk to God and ask Him about anything as long as we have the proper attitude like Habakkuk.
2. Be joyous in the midst of calamity.