



***Habakkuk: Seeing Your Life
Through The Eyes Of Faith***
Date: 10/23/2016

Pray Together

Use the first few minutes of your time together to lead your group in a focused prayer time.

- **Praise:** Spend time praising God for who He is.
- **Repent:** Take a few moments to silently confess any sin that is lingering in your heart.
- **Ask:** Verbalize your needs and the needs of others to God.
- **Yield:** Surrender your will to God.

Read Together

Habakkuk, a contemporary of Jeremiah, Zephaniah, Nahum, and Joel, prophesied to the people of Judah sometime between 640-626 BC. This was a period of great spiritual demise within the nation. Judah had abandoned faithfulness to Yahweh and her responsibility as His covenant people. Like the Northern Kingdom of Israel a century earlier, Judah was now facing an unthinkable judgment: Yahweh was raising up the Babylonians to provide divine punish for His chosen people.

Speaking on behalf of the righteous remnant, Habakkuk asks some of the most penetrating questions in all of Scripture—questions of doubt that every person has wrestled with. “How long shall I cry for help, and You will not hear?” “Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do You idly look at wrong?” Habakkuk’s questions strike at the heart of how fallen man trusts a good and just and all-knowing and all-powerful God. These are the sincere questions of theodicy.

God reminds Habakkuk that the wicked will be judged. “For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.” (2:3) Israel, the covenant people, must live by faith (2:4) and trust the revelation of who God is (3:1-19).

Outline

1. First Discourse Between Habakkuk and God (Hab 1:1-11)
 - a. Habakkuk: How can a holy God allow unholiness to go unchecked? (Hab 1:1-4)
 - b. God: The Babylonians will be the divine means of punishing God’s people. (Hab 1:5-11)
2. Second Discourse Between Habakkuk and God (Hab 1:12-2:20)
 - a. Habakkuk: How can God permit a wicked nation to punish His covenant people? (Hab 1:12-17)
 - b. God: The primary responsibility of the righteous person: live by faith (Hab 2:1-5)
 - c. God: Punishment will come for the wicked...but that time has not yet come (Hab 2:5-20)
3. Habakkuk’s Prayer and God’s Exaltation (Hab 3:1-19)
 - a. Prayer: Habakkuk’s request for the Redeemer’s mercy (Hab 3:1-2)
 - b. Reflection: Praise the sovereign power of God to redeem (Hab 3:3-15)
 - c. Acceptance: Habakkuk’s trust in God’s sovereignty (Hab 3:16-19)

Discuss Together

Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion.

- As you study Habakkuk, identify the most significant questions you need to answer to better understand its message.



- You may sense confusion and anger in Habakkuk's opening words. How could God use a wicked nation like Babylon for His divine purposes (Hab 1:2-4)? How has God used the unthinkable in your life to accomplish His divine purposes? How has the character and nature of God sustained and given you hope in times like these?
- The Triune God is always the main character of Scripture. What does the book of Habakkuk teach us about God?
- Knowing what Habakkuk teaches us about God, what does the book teach us about humanity?
- God used Babylon, a cruel and pagan nation, to punish His chosen people. Share a time when God did a work in your life "that you would not believe if told" (Hab 1:5.) Discuss how your relationship with God was impacted by this. Was it a transformational experience—your relationship with God was revived with new life—or did it cause a more acute response—your relationship with God grew colder for a season?
- Using Habakkuk 3, discuss the sovereign authority of God over the righteous and the wicked. How can Habakkuk rejoice in the Lord while embracing these truths?
- How should the Body of Christ "go there" with the message of Habakkuk? How do you personally need to "go there" with this message?

Do Life Together

These questions are designed to be asked in a smaller group of 2-4 people. The smaller setting will provide better opportunity for authentic responses. In your smaller group time, take notes to help others remain accountable to their answers. Grow together!

- How is God calling you to exchange doom for everlasting hope?
- How has Jesus already provided hope in this area?
- Who do you need to share this hope with this week?

Pray Together

Pray through Hebrews 10:32-39. Thank God for the difficult times that caused you to wrestle through questions of doubt. Reflect on the penetrating questions you asked God. Recount some of the ways God responded. Intercede for someone who is currently asking questions of doubt and needs perseverance of faith.

