

The Minor Prophets - Habakkuk

- Introduction
 - Habakkuk (חַבְּקוּק chə-baq-quq) means “embrace”.
 - There is only one man in the O.T. with this name.
 - No information about Habakkuk is provided here in the text.
 - Jewish tradition makes him the son of the Shunammite woman [2 Kgs 4:8-37].
 - Dating is likely 609-587 B.C.
 - The rise of the Chaldeans (Babylon) is mentioned in Hab 1:6.
 - The description of the apostasy in Judah fits well with the reign of King Jehoiakim.
- Observations from the Text
 - Like Nahum, this book is an oracle [1:1].
 - This oracle is the response to Habakkuk’s salvation lament [1:2-4].
 - “How long” is a common question in lamentations [Ps 13:1-2; 35:17; 94:3; Zech 1:12; Rev 6:10].
 - Habakkuk asks for salvation (שׁוּעָה – shuwa’), but God was not saving (יָשָׁעָה – yasha’).
 - God’s response to Habakkuk – you’re not going to believe what I’m about to tell you [1:5-11].
 - Habakkuk’s response to God – I don’t believe this [1:12-17].
 - Habakkuk refused to abandon his guard post of prayer even though he knew the Lord’s answer might be a rebuke [2:1-3].
 - The “proud one” refers to all human beings in rebellion, but also Satan who instigated the original rebellion [2:4-5].
 - The Lord lists five woes that loosely match up with Satan’s five “I will” boasts [2:6-20].
 - Rich in what is not his [2:6b-8] – I will ascend to heaven [Isa 14:13].
 - Put his nest on high [2:9-11] – I will raise my throne above the stars of God [Isa 14:13].
 - Promotion of own “civilization” in defiance of God’s design [2:12-14] – I will sit on the mount of the assembly [Isa 14:13].
 - Promoting drunkenness in place of the spiritual life [2:15-17] – I will ascend above the heights of the clouds [Isa 14:14].
 - No profit in idolatry [2:18-20] – I will make myself like the Most High [Isa 14:14].
 - Habakkuk pens a holy hymn about his prayer concerning God’s deliverance [3:1-19].
 - The Shigionoth musical style is also mentioned in Psalm 7, but its significance is not known today.
 - Habakkuk calls upon the Lord to be merciful when in the years to come His works for Israel are revived and made known [3:2].
 - Habakkuk describes the Lord’s Armageddon campaign in a 3rd person [3:3-6], 1st person [3:7], 2nd person progression [3:8-15].
 - The prophecy left Habakkuk drained, yet confident [3:16-19].

- Applications for Today
 - When we have a hard time believing things we have an urgent need for increased faith [Mark 9:24; Luke 17:5; Rom 10:17].
 - The righteous live by faith [Rom 1:17; Gal 3:11; Heb 10:38].
 - The guard post is the place of spiritual alertness and watchful prayer [Hab 2:1; Isa 21:6-10; 62:6-7; Ezek 33:1-9; Heb 13:17].
 - Pride is wrought by insanity [Dan 4:36-37; Ezek 28:17].
 - Sometimes God calls us to humbly accept truths that are terrifying...
 - OT Prophets [Ps 119:120; Jer 4:19; 23:9; Dan 7:28; 8:27]
 - Church Age Saints [1 Thess. 5:4-6].