

The Book of Habakkuk

I. THE DOUBTS (HABAKKUK 1-2).

- A. His question: "Will you punish our nation?" The prophet was grieved over the wickedness of Judah. The laws were not enforced and in the courts unrighteousness prevailed (1:4).
- B. God's answer: "I will, through Judah's foes." This would be done even during Habakkuk's lifetime (1:5). He was raising a new force on the world scene, the Chaldeans.
 - 1. Their horses were swifter than leopards (1:8).
 - 2. Their warriors were more fierce than wolves at dusk (1:8).
- C. His question: "Will you punish these Chaldeans also?" Habakkuk could not comprehend why God would let this pagan nation punish his own people, even though they were admittedly guilty of gross sin (1:12-17).

"Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?" (1:13).

- D. God's answer: "I will, through my woes!" Habakkuk climbs upon his watchtower to await God's answer. Soon it comes.
 - 1. God tells him the Chaldeans would indeed be punished, but only at his appointed time (2:3).
 - 2. Babylon was to be judged for their many sins (2:5, 8, 18-20).
 - 3. Until then, Habakkuk was to live by faith (2:4).

II. THE SHOUTS (HABAKKUK 3).

- A. The shout of the prophet is revived.

"O Lord, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid; O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy" (3:2).

- B. The eyes of the prophet are reassured. In 3:3-16 Habakkuk sees an awesome manifestation of God's majestic glory. He may actually be describing the future coming of the returning Christ.
 - 1. He moves across the deserts from Mount Sinai to Teman (an ancient settlement in Edom), perhaps to rescue the Jews hiding in Petra. (See Isa. 63:1; Rev. 12:13-17.)
 - 2. His brilliant splendor fills the earth and sky.
 - 3. From his hands flash rays of brilliant light.
 - 4. He stops for a moment, gazing upon the earth. He then shakes the nations, scattering the everlasting mountains.
 - 5. He went forth to deliver his people (3:13).
- C. The heart of the prophet rejoices.

"Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation" (3:18).

- D. The feet of the prophet are renewed.

"The Lord is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places" (3:19).