

THE BOOK OF HABAKKUK

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 1

Summary of Chapter

Habakkuk begins by questioning God about the apparent injustice and violence in Judah. He is troubled by the suffering and wrongdoing he observes. God responds by revealing that He is raising the Babylonians (Chaldeans) to bring judgment upon Judah for its sins. Habakkuk struggles with this revelation, questioning how a nation more wicked than Judah can be used to punish His people. Despite his doubts, the chapter ends with a reminder that faith and trust in God are essential, as the just shall live by their faithfulness.

Opening Question

1. Why do you think Habakkuk questioned God about the state of justice in his nation?
 2. How do you feel when you witness injustice and wrongdoing in your own life or community?
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Outline

1. **Habakkuk's Complaint** (1:1-4)
 - Habakkuk expresses his frustration over the injustice and violence in Judah.
 - Application Question: How do we deal with feelings of frustration when we see injustice around us? How can we channel these feelings constructively?
2. **God's Response** (1:5-11)
 - God reveals that He will use the Babylonians to execute judgment.
 - Application Question: How should we respond when God's plans are different from our expectations? What does this teach us about trust?
3. **Habakkuk's Second Complaint** (1:12-17)

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- Habakkuk questions the use of a more wicked nation to judge Judah.
 - Application Question: How can we maintain faith when God's methods seem perplexing?
How can understanding God's sovereignty help in such situations?
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Possible Activities

1. **Memory Verse Challenge:** Have students memorize Habakkuk 2:4, "The righteous will live by his faith." Challenge them to recite it from memory and explain its significance in their own words.
 2. **Role Playing Activity:** Divide students into groups and assign them roles as Habakkuk, God, and the people of Judah. Have them act out a dialogue based on the chapter, focusing on the questions and responses about justice and judgment.
 3. **Discussion Activity:** Facilitate a class discussion on the concept of living by faith even when faced with difficult circumstances. Encourage students to share personal experiences where they had to trust in God despite not understanding His plans.
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Quiz

1. What is Habakkuk's main concern in Chapter 1?
A. The prosperity of other nations
B. The injustice and violence in Judah
C. The economy of Judah
D. The weather patterns in Judah
2. How does God respond to Habakkuk's complaint?
A. He promises to bring peace immediately
B. He reveals that He will use the Babylonians to judge Judah
C. He ignores the complaint
D. He sends a prophet to Judah

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3. Who are the Babylonians in Chapter 1? A. A neighboring nation with a treaty
B. A group of traders
C. The nation God will use to bring judgment
D. An ally of Judah
4. What does Habakkuk question about God's plan? A. The speed of the judgment
B. The fairness of using a wicked nation to punish Judah
C. The choice of the Babylonian king
D. The location of the judgment
5. What is the central theme of Habakkuk 1? A. Economic prosperity
B. The role of the prophet
C. The struggle with understanding divine justice
D. The history of Babylon
6. How does Habakkuk describe the Babylonians? A. A peaceful nation
B. A righteous people
C. A violent and proud nation
D. A small tribe
7. What does Habakkuk want from God? A. Immediate deliverance
B. Detailed plans for the future
C. Assurance of justice and righteousness
D. More prophets
8. What lesson does Habakkuk learn from God's response? A. To question God more
B. To accept God's plan and trust in His justice
C. To rebel against Babylon
D. To seek a different deity
9. What does the phrase "The righteous will live by his faith" suggest? A. Righteousness is achieved by following laws
B. Faith is secondary to actions
C. True righteousness is living with trust in God
D. Faith alone is insufficient

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10. What is the primary purpose of God's judgment through the Babylonians? A. To teach Judah a lesson
B. To punish the Babylonians
C. To show favor to other nations
D. To enrich the Babylonians

Answers: 1-B, 2-B, 3-C, 4-B, 5-C, 6-C, 7-A, 8-B, 9-C, 10-A

Fill in the Blank

1. Habakkuk is troubled by the _____ and _____ he sees in Judah.
2. God reveals that He will use the _____ to execute judgment on Judah.
3. Habakkuk questions how a nation more _____ than Judah can be used by God.
4. The chapter ends with the reminder that the _____ will live by their faithfulness.

Answers: 1. injustice, violence; 2. Babylonians; 3. wicked; 4. just

Vocabulary Words

1. **Injustice** - Lack of fairness or justice.
2. **Babylonians** - The inhabitants of Babylon, an ancient empire known for its conquests and empire-building.
3. **Judgment** - The act of making a decision or forming an opinion, particularly in a legal or divine context.
4. **Righteous** - Morally right or justifiable; virtuous.
5. **Faith** - Complete trust or confidence in someone or something, particularly in a religious context.

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CHAPTER 2

Summary of Chapter

In Chapter 2 of Habakkuk, the prophet waits for God's response and receives a vision that provides a message of hope and reassurance. God instructs Habakkuk to write down the vision clearly, stating that it will come to pass at the appointed time. The chapter emphasizes that although the fulfillment of God's promises may seem delayed, it is certain. The righteous are encouraged to live by faith, trusting in God's justice and timing. God also declares that the arrogant and wicked will face judgment, while the righteous will be vindicated.

Opening Question

1. Why do you think God instructed Habakkuk to write down the vision clearly?
 2. How do you feel about waiting for something you believe in, even if it seems delayed?
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Outline

1. **The Vision and Its Purpose (2:1-3)**
 - Habakkuk waits for God's answer and is instructed to write the vision plainly.
 - Application Question: How can we stay patient and faithful when waiting for God's promises? What does it mean to live by faith during uncertain times?
2. **The Message of the Vision (2:4-5)**
 - The vision contrasts the righteous who live by faith with the wicked who are proud and greedy.

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- Application Question: In what ways can we demonstrate faithfulness in our daily lives?
How do we recognize and confront pride and greed in ourselves and others?
 - 3. **The Woes Against the Wicked (2:6-20)**
 - God pronounces woes against those who exploit and oppress others, emphasizing that their actions will lead to their downfall.
 - Application Question: How can we address and stand against injustice and exploitation in our communities? What role does faith play in advocating for justice?
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Possible Activities

1. **Memory Verse Challenge:** Have students memorize Habakkuk 2:4, "The righteous will live by his faith." Challenge them to explain how this verse applies to their personal experiences.
 2. **Role Playing Activity:** Create scenarios where students act out situations involving waiting for a promise or dealing with injustice. Assign roles such as Habakkuk, God, and the wicked individuals described in the chapter.
 3. **Discussion Activity:** Facilitate a discussion on how individuals can remain faithful and hopeful in the face of challenges and perceived delays in God's promises. Encourage students to share personal stories and strategies for maintaining faith.
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Quiz

1. What does God instruct Habakkuk to do with the vision?
A. Share it with everyone immediately
B. Keep it a secret
C. Write it down clearly on tablets
D. Memorize it and forget it
2. What is the central message of the vision in Chapter 2?
A. The vision will be fulfilled quickly
B. The righteous will live by faith and the wicked will face judgment

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- C. Habakkuk should move to another country
- D. The wicked will prosper forever
- 3. How are the righteous described in Chapter 2? A. Proud and greedy
 - B. Faithful and living by their faith
 - C. Fearful and doubtful
 - D. Wealthy and powerful
- 4. What does God say about the wicked in Chapter 2? A. They will be rewarded
 - B. They will face woes and judgment
 - C. They will be forgiven immediately
 - D. They will receive new blessings
- 5. What is one of the key attributes of the wicked in Chapter 2? A. Humility
 - B. Greed
 - C. Generosity
 - D. Patience
- 6. What will happen to the proud and greedy according to the vision? A. They will be blessed
 - B. They will be overthrown and punished
 - C. They will become leaders
 - D. They will find peace
- 7. How should Habakkuk's message influence the righteous? A. By causing them to question their faith
 - B. By encouraging them to live by faith and trust in God's justice
 - C. By making them fearful of judgment
 - D. By leading them to ignore God's promises
- 8. What does God's vision reveal about the timing of His promises? A. They are always immediate
 - B. They may be delayed but are certain to come true
 - C. They are never fulfilled
 - D. They depend on human actions
- 9. How does Chapter 2 address the issue of injustice? A. By ignoring it
 - B. By promising immediate justice

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- C. By declaring that the unjust will face judgment
 - D. By suggesting people accept it as fate
10. What is Habakkuk's role in Chapter 2? A. To challenge God's plans
- B. To share the vision and its message
 - C. To abandon his faith
 - D. To remain silent about the vision

Answers: 1-C, 2-B, 3-B, 4-B, 5-B, 6-B, 7-B, 8-B, 9-C, 10-B

Fill in the Blank

1. Habakkuk is instructed to _____ the vision clearly on tablets.
2. The righteous are described as those who _____ by their faith.
3. The vision reveals that the _____ will face judgment and woe.
4. God's promises, though seemingly _____, are certain to come true.

Answers: 1. write; 2. live; 3. wicked; 4. delayed

Vocabulary Words

1. **Vision** - A revelation or insight given by God, often in symbolic form.
2. **Woe** - A term used to describe a deep distress or misery, especially due to judgment or suffering.
3. **Proud** - Having an excessive belief in one's own abilities or worth; arrogant.
4. **Greed** - An intense and selfish desire for something, particularly wealth or power.
5. **Righteous** - Morally right or justifiable; following ethical principles.

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CHAPTER 3

Summary of Chapter

In Chapter 3 of Habakkuk, the prophet delivers a powerful prayer and hymn of praise. He reflects on God's mighty deeds and past interventions on behalf of Israel. Habakkuk describes a vision of God coming in majesty and power, bringing both judgment and deliverance. The chapter acknowledges God's sovereignty and justice, emphasizing that even in times of distress and uncertainty, the prophet remains steadfast in faith. Habakkuk concludes with a declaration of trust, affirming that despite hardships, he will rejoice in the Lord and find strength in God.

Opening Question

1. How does Habakkuk's prayer in Chapter 3 reflect his understanding of God's power and justice?
 2. In what ways can we express trust and faith in God during challenging times?
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Outline

1. **Habakkuk's Prayer and Praise (3:1-2)**
 - Habakkuk prays to God, asking Him to revive His work and show mercy in the midst of wrath.
 - Application Question: How can we incorporate prayer and praise into our responses to challenges? What does it mean to seek God's mercy in difficult times?
2. **The Vision of God's Majesty (3:3-15)**
 - Habakkuk describes a vision of God's power and glory as He comes to deliver His people and judge their enemies.

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- Application Question: How does understanding God's majesty affect our view of His involvement in our lives? What impact does recognizing God's power have on our daily decisions and faith?
3. **Declaration of Faith and Trust** (3:16-19)
- Despite the calamities and hardships, Habakkuk declares his trust in the Lord and his determination to rejoice in God's salvation.
 - Application Question: How can we cultivate a spirit of rejoicing and trust even when faced with personal or communal trials? What steps can we take to maintain faith in God's promises during adversity?
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Possible Activities

1. **Memory Verse Challenge:** Have students memorize Habakkuk 3:19, "The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights." Encourage them to share how this verse inspires them to find strength in God.
 2. **Role Playing Activity:** Create scenarios where students act out responses to personal challenges, demonstrating how they would maintain faith and trust in God. Assign roles such as Habakkuk, the faithful believer, and those struggling with doubts.
 3. **Discussion Activity:** Lead a discussion on how recognizing God's sovereignty and majesty can help us cope with difficulties. Invite students to share personal experiences where their faith in God provided strength and encouragement.
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Quiz

1. What does Habakkuk ask God to do in his prayer? A. To bring immediate judgment
B. To revive His work and show mercy

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- C. To ignore the troubles of the people
- D. To leave the people alone
- 2. How is God depicted in Habakkuk's vision? A. As distant and indifferent
 - B. As majestic and powerful
 - C. As weak and ineffective
 - D. As a human ruler
- 3. What does Habakkuk say about God's actions toward His people? A. He will abandon them
 - B. He will bring both judgment and deliverance
 - C. He will only judge them
 - D. He will only deliver them
- 4. What is Habakkuk's attitude towards the hardships described in Chapter 3? A. He is discouraged and doubtful
 - B. He remains steadfast in faith and trust
 - C. He rejects the hardships as unimportant
 - D. He blames God for the difficulties
- 5. How does Habakkuk describe his response to the calamities he faces? A. He will despair and lose hope
 - B. He will rejoice in the Lord and find strength in God
 - C. He will seek comfort in material wealth
 - D. He will avoid facing the issues
- 6. What role does God play in Habakkuk's life according to Chapter 3? A. A distant observer
 - B. The source of strength and stability
 - C. A mere historical figure
 - D. An obstacle to overcome
- 7. How does Habakkuk describe his feet metaphorically in the chapter? A. As heavy and burdened
 - B. As swift and agile
 - C. As steady and sure
 - D. As unsteady and faltering

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8. What does Habakkuk emphasize about God's response to his people? A. It is slow and uncertain
B. It is powerful and timely
C. It is irrelevant and disconnected
D. It is arbitrary and unpredictable
9. What is the overall message of Habakkuk 3 regarding faith? A. Faith is irrelevant in times of trouble
B. Faith should be maintained regardless of circumstances
C. Faith is only for times of prosperity
D. Faith is unnecessary for those who are strong
10. How does Habakkuk's prayer conclude? A. By questioning God's plan
B. By declaring trust and rejoicing in the Lord
C. By demanding immediate action
D. By expressing frustration and doubt

Answers: 1-B, 2-B, 3-B, 4-B, 5-B, 6-B, 7-C, 8-B, 9-B, 10-B

Fill in the Blank

1. Habakkuk prays for God to _____ His work and show mercy.
2. In his vision, Habakkuk sees God as _____ and _____.
3. Despite the hardships, Habakkuk declares his _____ in the Lord.
4. Habakkuk uses the metaphor of _____ to describe his spiritual strength.

Answers: 1. revive; 2. majestic; powerful; 3. trust; 4. feet

Vocabulary Words

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1. **Revive** - To restore to life or consciousness; to bring back to a state of activity or strength.
(Hebrew: חַיָּה, chayah)
2. **Majestic** - Having grandeur, beauty, or dignity; impressive. (Hebrew: גָּדוֹל, gadol)
3. **Calamity** - A disastrous event causing great harm or distress. (Hebrew: רָעָה, ra'ah)
4. **Rejoice** - To feel or show great joy or delight. (Hebrew: גִּיל, gil)
5. **Sovereign** - Supreme ruler; possessing supreme power or authority. (Hebrew: מֶלֶךְ, melech)