

Habakkuk

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Theme: God calls people to righteously walk in faith, and he will not tolerate injustice. [A title might be, *Walk Righteously in Faith or Face Correction!*]

Structure: Habakkuk used many literary devices, but the dominant one was continuation. Throughout this book of the Bible, Habakkuk continues the theme stated above.

In the first thematic paragraph [1:1-4], in which Habakkuk asks God for intervention regarding injustice, Habakkuk complains of the violence, iniquity, wickedness, destruction, strife, contention, lawlessness, and corruption of his society [1:2-4].

In the second thematic paragraph [1:5-11], in which God responds that intervention is coming [!], but that it will be by the hand of the unjust Babylonians [Chaldeans], Habakkuk records God's criticism of the Babylonians, that they rely on themselves for strength, authority, and morality, not God; and that God will hold them guilty [1:7-11].

In the third thematic paragraph [1:12-2:1], in which Habakkuk objects to the magnitude of the punishment, and its deliverance by the Babylonians, Habakkuk asks how God can look with favor and grant them success despite their wickedness, treachery, and idolatry [1:13-16].

In the fourth thematic paragraph [2:2-20] – which contains three sub-topical groupings of verses, in which God differentiates between the righteous and the condemned proud and greedy [2:2-5], God condemns those who build up wealth unjustly [2:6-14], and God condemns those who do not keep the commandments to love and honor God and to love others like yourselves [2:15-20] – in which God assures Habakkuk that he will bring justice to the Babylonians too [through in a sense also justifies his plan in 2:4, which – along with the “woes” – could describe the division among the Judeans at the time as well as the difference between Judeans and Babylonians], Habakkuk records God's condemnation of those who are proud, haughty, overly-ambitious, looters, violent, destructive, dishonest, trusting in wealth, corrupting, mocking, and idolatrous [2:4-19]

In the fifth thematic paragraph [3:1-19] – which contains three sub-topical groupings of verses, in which Habakkuk praises God for his mighty attributes [3:1-5], praises God for past deliverances [3:6-15], and praises God through his own enduring righteous faith in God [3:16-19] – in which Habakkuk firmly puts his praise and trust for deliverance in God, Habakkuk remembers that God in the past has struck against those who were unjust and delivered his faithful people [3:5-15]; and in the end Habakkuk demonstrates the righteous faith called for in 2:4 [3:18-19].

Structural Chart: see next page.

Habakkuk: Walk Righteously in Faith or Face Correction!

Key verse: 2:4: Behold, as for the proud one, his soul is not right within him; but the righteous will live by his faith.

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Key Words	Complaint for Correction			Promise of Deliverance			Praise for Trustworthiness			
Lord x13 God x5 Woe x5	1:1	-	2:1	2:2	-	2:20	3:1	-	3:19	
Topic	Habakkuk asks God to bring correction	God describes coming correction	Habakkuk objects to God's chosen path to correction	God condemns proud and greedy	God condemns those who build wealth unjustly	God condemns those who do not honor him or love others	Habakkuk praises God for mighty attributes	Habakkuk praises God for past deliverances	Habakkuk praises God through his righteous faith	Habakkuk ≈ 609BC to Judeans Groben 2005
Injustices	violence, iniquity, wickedness, destruction, strife, contention, lawlessness, corruption, self-authority, self-justification, self-reliance, treachery, idolatry			pride, greed, ambition, looting, violence, destructiveness, dishonesty, trust in wealth, corruption, mockery, idolatry			evil, oppression of the righteous			
The Righteous	cry out for justice			live by faith			exult in and rejoice in God; trust in God for deliverance; rely on God for strength			