



Becoming a People Who... Live by The Book

"Habakkuk"

Message Notes: July 7, 2019

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We continue our walk through the Bible today in the (Minor Prophet) book of Habakkuk.

- There are 17 prophetic books (5 Major prophet, 12 Minor prophet).
 - The minor prophet books are not less important; they are simply shorter in length and more specific in their focus – speaking into a *specific* time and place.
- Prophets were sent not so much to FORE-tell future events, but to FORTH-tell the message of God in addressing the sins of people and nations which often involved future consequences.
- Habakkuk is just 3 chapters and 56 verses; involving just TWO characters: a prayer conversation between Habakkuk and God.
 - Pattern is: Habakkuk's complaint; God's response; Habakkuk's 2nd complaint; God's response; Habakkuk's responsive song.

1. Habakkuk's complaint – raw, honest, frustration and complaint. What do we glean? God invites and receives our honest emotions. He listens and even responds to us. [\(verses 1-4\)](#)

2. God's response (not exactly what Habakkuk was expecting!) – I am raising up the arrogant, oppressive Babylonians... (to execute my judgment). [\(verses 5-11\)](#)

3. Habakkuk's response – at first, a worshipful posture of surrender to God [\(vss 12\)](#) then a **2nd complaint** [\(vss 13-17\)](#): Why do you allow wicked nations to oppress? Habakkuk ends with a posture of waiting/listening for God's response. [\(vs 2:1\)](#)

- In our coming to God, raw and honest, He desires us to be still and listen.

In our prayers, at times, we need to dispense with our "amen" (*I'm done now*) and "leave the line open," keep the dialogue going; to hear what God has to say to us.

- [Jeremiah 33:3](#) - "call to me and I will answer..."

4. God's response – in short, "there is much more going on than you can see. I see the big picture. I am doing something larger. I will exact justice on the wicked who oppress others." [\(verses 2:2-17\)](#)

* [Jeremiah 29:12-14](#) – "then you will call upon me and pray, and I will listen to you ..."

* God gives insight to the lifelessness of idols - so unlike Him, the living God. [\(vss 18-20\)](#)

(Chapter 3)

5. Habakkuk's responsive song of joyous lament – an emotional, wandering prayer.

- * Along the way, he pauses to consider the depth of these insights [*Selah*]
- * He ponders the goodness of God; he remembers God's salvation in the past; he determines to rest in God's strength, no matter his circumstances.

"Yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will be joyful in God my Savior."