

When Faith Becomes Faithfulness



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Scripture: Habakkuk 2:1-4

AUTHOR

Habakkuk, who served as a prophet to Judah from 612-589 BC. He was a contemporary of Jeremiah, Daniel, and Ezekiel. Though not much is known about Habakkuk, he was considered to be well educated. He wrote to the people of Judah (the Southern Kingdom) to show God is still in control of the world despite the feeling that evil triumphed. Habakkuk had questions and he sought answers. His questions and God's answers are recorded in this book.

CONTEXT

Babylon was becoming the dominant world power and Judah would soon be faced with Babylon's destructive force. Judah's last 4 kings were wicked and rejected God. They oppressed their own people. This was a time of fear, uncertainty, oppression, persecution, lawlessness, immorality, with destruction soon to take place. Habakkuk was written in a time of international crisis and corruption. Most of the 1st chapter focuses on the questions Habakkuk had. As the 2nd chapter begins, Habakkuk says he will wait to hear God's answers to his complaints or questions. Then God begins to speak and his answers fill chapter 2. Habakkuk is unique because while other prophets declared God's message to the people, this prophet talked with God about people.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Habakkuk 1:1-2. What questions did Habakkuk ask of God?
2. What questions do you have for God right now? Do you ever wrestle with doubt because of your questions?
3. Read today's scripture, Habakkuk 2:1-4. What stands out to you?

4. The watchman and watchtower were often used by the prophets to show an attitude of expectation. (See Isaiah 21:8, 11, Jeremiah 6:17, and Ezekiel 3:17). What are you expectant for and are you waiting patiently?
5. The evil and injustice we see in the world sometimes can feel overwhelming and we may wonder why they seem to prevail. We may feel angry and discouraged. Habakkuk felt this way too and complained to God. How did God answer him in regards to punishment of sin in verse 3?
6. Does it challenge you to trust God when you don't understand why events occur as they do?
7. How will the righteous live according to verse 4? This verse has inspired many Christians.
8. How would you summarize the message of Habakkuk and how does it relate to our own lives today?

The other scripture for today is Romans 1:16-17. Written by the apostle Paul to the Christians in Rome, how does Paul encourage us?

NOTES