

MINOR PROPHETS: HABAKKUK

(The following is adapted from the Quest Study Bible—Zondervan, 2011)

Who wrote this book and when? Habakkuk, a prophet to the nation of Judah—about 605 BC.

What was happening during this time? (See: 2 Kings 23:31-24:7 and 2 Chronicles 36:1-8). Sin was rampant in Judah. Violence was everywhere. The people were worshiping idols, sacrificing their children to pagan gods and ignoring God. The wicked King Jehoiakim not only refused to listen to God's prophets but also burned their writings. Jehoiakim foolishly positioned Judah between two warring superpowers—the declining Assyrian Empire and the rising Babylonian Empire.

What to look for in: Most prophets spoke to the people on God's behalf. Habakkuk was unique in that he spoke to God on behalf of the people. Notice his complaints to God, God's unexpected answer, and the hope Habakkuk discovered in the end.

Chapter 1

- Why do you think Habakkuk began his complaint with 'how long'?
- What do you think it means that Habakkuk is standing watch for God's response? (2:1)
- Have you ever had times of waiting for God to respond to your troubles? How did you wait on God in that time?

Chapter 2

- A series of prophetic "woes" are leveled against the attacker. What are some of the messages here from God about the attacker and the results of their ways?
- Why do you think the description of God (2:20) is so meaningful in light of what has come before this point in Habakkuk? What is the significance of worship here?

Chapter 3

- What stands out to you in Habakkuk's prayer?
- What sort of faith declaration is Habakkuk making here?
- Habakkuk struggled to understand how God works, but in the end, he became convinced that he could trust God no matter how bleak or confusing the circumstances appeared to be. How might that be true in your life?

THIRD CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

2400 Winchell Ave + Kalamazoo, MI 49008
3rdcrc.org + 343-2400 + Office: M-Th 8am – 4pm

Sunday + August 1, 2021

Prayer of Preparation

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it. Bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Call to Worship — from Psalm 25

We trust in you, O God, for you are faithful.

ALL: Show us your ways and teach us your paths.

We wait for you.

ALL: Lead us in your paths of truth.

Do not remember our failures.

ALL: Out of your merciful grace, forgive us.

You are faithful, O God. Your love is steadfast.

ALL: We lift up our souls to you, and praise you always.

SONGS: I'll Not Be Shaken & Goodness of God

Call to Confession — Matthew 9:12-13

Jesus said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we are thankful that your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, deeper than all our sin. Forgive our frivolous attitude toward life, our callousness toward suffering, our envy of those who have more than we have, our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure,

our indifference to the treasures of heaven, our neglect of your wise and gracious law. Help us to change our way of life so that we may desire what is good, love what you love, and do what you command, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Words of Encouragement — Colossians 1:13-14

God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. This is the good news.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

SONG: His Mercy is More

Sharing God's Peace

Children's Story

Life @ Third

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

Minor Prophets: Habakkuk + “Living By Faith”

FOLLOWING GOD INTO THE WORLD

SONG: When Peace Like a River (451)

Blessing & Sending

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shine in your hearts, transform your lives, and brighten the world. And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always

ALL: Amen!

SONG: Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me