

God's Unchanging Nature
Habakkuk 1:12-2:1

“Habakkuk is profound because it raises deep questions about the working of God in history—why God does what he does, why he does it in the way he does, and why he sometimes does nothing. It is also profound because of the answers God gives. God says that although the righteous may not understand everything he is doing, they nevertheless should live by faith in him (Hab. 2:4). This statement is so important that it is picked up and quoted three times in the New Testament: twice by Paul (Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11) and once by the author of Hebrews (Heb. 10:38).

Habakkuk had a problem. He had lived through a period of national revival followed by a period of spiritual decline, and when he cried out to God about it, God replied that he was sending the Babylonians to be an agent of judgment on his people. This was not what Habakkuk wanted. He had been looking for another revival. But in addition to not getting what he wanted, he now had the further problem of reconciling God's action with what he knew of God's moral standards.” Boice

Habakkuk – khav·ak·kük' = love embrace

- I. There were several things Habakkuk did to deal with the problem of his despair over trying to understand what God was doing. He went to prayer, he expected God to answer his prayers and when He didn't answer his prayer according to his time table, he approached God with confidence to ask him why. Habakkuk didn't question the character of God. In fact, he understood God and his attributes in a heartfelt way. His struggle was in trying to understand why God was acting in ways that seemed contrary to his nature.

Hab. 1:12-17

1. God's eternity (“O Lord, are you not from everlasting”). Exodus 3:14
2. God's holiness (“My God, my Holy One”). Rev. 4:8
3. God's mercy/faithfulness (“We will not die”).

Eph. 2:4

Deut. 7:9

2 Tim. 2:13

4. God Justice (“O Lord, you have appointed them to execute judgment”). 2 Thess. 1:6-8

5. God's power ("O Rock").

"The Hebrew translated 'mighty power' literally means 'a rock.'"

2 Sam. 22:47 *The Lord Lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God, the Rock, my Savior!*

6. God's sovereignty/Justice ("you have ordained them to punish"). Ps. 115:3

7. God's holiness ("your eyes are too pure to look on evil") vs. 13

8. God's Justice ("you cannot tolerate wrong") vs. 13

II. Habakkuk had a choice to make in dealing with his despair. He could have chosen bitterness, anger, hopelessness, confusion, disillusionment and aloofness toward God. Instead, he chose to commit his problem to him by faith. He chose to wait on the Lord, to acknowledge him and not lean on his limited understanding of what he saw happening and what it might mean or him personally.

Hab. 2:1

Prov. 3:5

Psalm 27:13-14 *I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.*

"A tower is something set apart from or detached from the common press of life. So when Habakkuk says that he is going to stand as his watch and station himself on the ramparts, he is saying, 'I have been down in the valley with my problem and have not been able to solve it. Now I am going to draw apart for while and leave it with God. I am going to detach myself from the difficulty.'" Boice