

Living by His Faith

Habakkuk 2:2-20

“Habakkuk 2:4 is the central revelation of this important and quite contemporary prophecy. The verse is God’s answer to the question Habakkuk raised in the opening section of his book. Habakkuk was troubled by ungodliness in Israel. But when God revealed that he was about to use the Babylonians to punish his people, Habakkuk asked how God could use the ungodly to punish those more righteous than themselves. It was a daring moral question, for Habakkuk was asking whether God was doing right. The prophet waited intently and apprehensively before the answer came.

The answer, which begins with 2:3 and continues to the end of the chapter, has to do with God’s judgment upon the Babylonians. Just because the foreign army would pride itself on its strength and have a moment of triumph over Israel in its conquest did not mean that the Babylonians were justified in God’s sight. They were not. So judgement was going to fall on them too. The wonderful thing about this chapter, however... is the one verse (v. 4) that speaks of the life of the believer in a time of crisis: “The righteous will live by his faith.” Boice

- I. Like Habakkuk, believers have been given insight into the future that the nonbeliever is incapable of understanding (2 Cor. 2:14). God has revealed to us a clear and concise foretelling of events that will take place exactly as described in Scripture. Our responsibility is to watch how we live as we keep watch for our Lord’s return.

Hab. 2:2-3

2 Thess. 4:13-18

Matt. 24:10-11

Titus 2:11-13

Matt. 24:36,42

2 Peter 3:3-4

2 Peter 3:10-12 ¹⁰*But the day of the LORD will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. ¹¹Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹²as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.*

- II. Verse four gives us a contrast between those who live by God's faith and those who live by their own faith. It is a contrast between the righteous and the unrighteous, the arrogant and the humble, the blessed and the condemned. The righteous are filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord (vs. 14). The proud are filled with nothing, because they have put their faith in nothing of eternal value.

Hab. 2:5-20

2 Tim. 2:13

Gal. 6:7-8

"In 2:6-20 we find what scholars call a 'taunt song.' It is the kind of song that a once-oppressed people might direct against its former oppressor. Often taunt songs begin with the word 'woe' or 'alas.' In this case, there are five occurrences of the word 'woe,' each of which marks a stanza within the song." Boice

Vs. 20 *"Let us realize that He is there in the temple of the universe, God over all. Let us silently humble ourselves and bow down before him. Let us magnify his grace, His might, His power, His goodness, and in quiet peace of heart and mind and soul wait for him." Martyn Lloyd Jones*

Romans 1:17 *For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."*

Galatians 3:11 *Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because "the righteous will live by faith."*

Hebrews 10:37-38 ³⁷*For, "In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay."* ³⁸*And, "But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back."*