

**HABAKKUK:
THROUGH THE DARK TUNNEL
WITH GOD**

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Introduction

Author: named Habakkuk, otherwise unknown

Place: Judah, shortly before Babylonian captivity

Date: prob about 605 BC, reign of Jehoiakim

Setting: rampant sin in Jewish society

Habakkuk's First Complaint to God: (1:2-4)

How can you let such evil in society go unpunished?

Picture of Jewish society of time cast in general terms

Certainly resembles much in our society today

God's First Answer: (1:5-11)

I'm not: I'm sending invaders to destroy that society!

Explicit reference to Chaldeans = Babylonians, but characteristics fairly general for world conquerors

Could God raise up Communism or some other invader or disaster to destroy our society?

Habakkuk's Second Complaint: (1:12-2:1)

How can you let such wicked conquerors destroy those more righteous than themselves?

Babylonians certainly more wicked than Israelites, though possibly not when different level of light taken into account; but many righteous in Israel will also suffer.

Communists, etc. more wicked than us, though perhaps not when different level of light taken into account; if some such happens to U.S., many righteous will suffer.

God's Second Answer: (2:2-20)

Depend on me; the wicked (including conquerors) will get what they deserve & the righteous what they hope for.

Doesn't deal with question of relative levels of light, but with response of wicked and righteous.

Problem of Delay (2:2-5)

Wicked become arrogant (Eccl 8:11; Lk 18:7-8)

Righteous must live by faith/faithfulness

Woes to Wicked (6-20) - appears to be generalized so as to have application both to wicked in Israel and wicked Babylonian conquerors; and to wicked in our society

Plunders (6-8): to be plundered

Unjust (9-11): to get justice

Greedy (12-14): to lose all

Seducers (15-17): to be overwhelmed by violence

Idolaters (18-20): to be confronted by real God

Habakkuk's Response of Prayer & Trust (3:1-19)

Calls on God to Intervene (2)

God's Intervention (3-15)

Uses imagery from Exodus, from theophanies

Divine Warrior motif

Looks to end of age

Habakkuk's Response (16-19)

Fear & trembling (16a)

Trust in face of calamity (16b-18)
(the just will live by faith)

God is my strength & protection (19)
(not just a dark future, but a dark tunnel this side of a bright future)

How will we respond if such disaster comes upon us?