

HABAKKUK

THE PROPHECY

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HABAKKUK – The PROPHECY

Chapter One

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Habakkuk 1** and mark every reference to the LORD with a red triangle.

Read through **Habakkuk 1** and mark every reference to Habakkuk the prophet, including pronouns, with a green highlighted circle.

Read through **Habakkuk 1** and mark every reference to Israel with a blue Star of David.

Read through **Habakkuk 1** and mark every reference to the Chaldeans, including pronouns, with a pink highlighted box.

Read through **Habakkuk 1** and mark every reference to the nations with a purple flag.

Read through **Habakkuk 1** and mark every reference to the wicked with a orange capital “W”.

Read through **Habakkuk 1** and mark every reference to the righteous with a blue capital “R+”.

Read through **Habakkuk 1** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time phrase is referring to the last days or that day, fill the box in with blue to differentiate it from a general time phrase.

Read through **Habakkuk 1** and mark every term of conclusion with a large pink capital “T”.

Read through **Habakkuk 1** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal slash, i.e. “black/white”.

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Habakkuk cries, "Help!"
2. LORD answers, "I will send the Chaldeans."
3. Habakkuk, "No!"

READ AND ANSWER

Habakkuk 1:1-4

Who is Habakkuk?

What did Habakkuk see?

What is an oracle? (Look it up in a Bible dictionary.)

What question does Habakkuk ask in the oracle?

To Whom does Habakkuk address his question?

What has Habakkuk been doing?

Has he heard any answer from the LORD?

What does Habakkuk cry out to the LORD?

What response does Habakkuk want?

Does the LORD save His people, Judah, from the violence within her?

What does Habakkuk see?

What does Habakkuk look upon?

Who does he say causes him to see the iniquity and wickedness in Judah?

Why does Habakkuk consider that God is causing him to look upon the evil? (Hint: What is he calling out for God to do?)

What is ever before Habakkuk's eyes?

1.

2.

What exists?

What arises?

What is ignored?

Why?

What is never upheld?

Why not?

Why does justice comes out perverted?

What does it mean that the wicked surround the righteous?

Habakkuk 1:5-11

In the oracle, God answers Habakkuk. What does He tell Habakkuk to do?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Why is Habakkuk going to be astonished?

When is God doing this “thing” that Habakkuk is to observe?

Who does this thing involve? (Where does He tell Habakkuk to look?)

How amazing is this thing?

What is God doing?

Who are the Chaldeans? (Look them up in a Bible dictionary.)

What are the Chaldeans like?

What are the Chaldeans doing?

Why are they marching throughout the earth?

How do the nations feel about the Chaldeans?

1.

2.

Do they have God's sense of justice?

Do they have anyone's sense of justice?

Do they believe they are under God's authority?

Do they believe they are under anyone's authority?

Since their justice and authority are not checked by anyone, do you see why they are dreaded and feared?

How are their horses described?

1.

2.

Habakkuk describes their cavalry drawing near. What is the pace of their approach?

Even though they come from a far distance, to what are the horsemen likened?

What makes them so eager and tireless in their march throughout the earth?

As they move forward en masse, what are they collecting?

How many captives?

How do they treat kings?

How do they view rulers?

At what do they contemptuously laugh?

How do they defeat fortresses?

What do they do when they capture a fortress?

1.

2.

What does the picture of sweeping show?

What damage can a strong wind do if it sweeps through an area?

Although they are being raised up by God, will they be held guilty for what they are doing?

Why will they be held guilty?

Who will hold them guilty?

What is their god?

Whose strength is greater than theirs?

POINT OF CONNECTION

***Peek ahead to Habakkuk 3:19 and notice Who is Habakkuk's strength!
Is your strength your god or is God your strength?***

Habakkuk 1:12-17

Habakkuk is astonished at God's answer alright—indeed, he is flabbergasted! What does he remind himself about God?

How does Habakkuk address God?

1.

2.

3.

What confidence does Habakkuk show in His Covenant keeping God?

What have the Chaldeans been appointed to do?

What have the Chaldeans been established to do?

Who does Habakkuk know has appointed the Chaldeans to judge God's people?

Who does Habakkuk know has established the Chaldeans to correct Judah?

What does Habakkuk know about God's purity?

1.

2.

Even knowing what he does about God, and believing it, what questions are asked of God?

1.

2.

Does it seem to Habakkuk that God is looking with favor on those who deal treacherously?

And yet, what has Habakkuk declared God cannot look at?

Does it seem to Habakkuk that God is silent when the wicked are swallowing up those more righteous than they?

And yet, what has Habakkuk declared that God cannot approve?

Who are the wicked Habakkuk is referring to?

Who does Habakkuk consider more righteous than the Chaldeans?

Does Habakkuk consider the Jews to be righteous? **Habakkuk 1:1-4**

How does Habakkuk picture the men whom God has made?

1.

2.

What do the Chaldeans do to the men who are like the fish of the sea?

What do the Chaldeans do to the men who are like creeping things without a ruler over them?

What do the Chaldeans do when they gather men together in their fishing net?

1.

2.

3.

4.

What do the Chaldeans worship?

Why?

1.

2.

What does Habakkuk surmise the Chaldeans will continue to do?

READ AND REASON

Habakkuk 1:5-6 tell us that God was raising up the Chaldeans (Babylonians) from among all the nations to be the dominant empire of the world at the time He gave His oracle to Habakkuk.

The Babylonians took over the position of the ruling kingdom from the Assyrians in 605 BC.

What does this tell you about when the book of Habakkuk was written?

HABAKKUK – The PROPHECY

Chapter Two

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Habakkuk 2** and mark every reference to the LORD with a red triangle.

Read through **Habakkuk 2** and mark every reference to Habakkuk the prophet, including pronouns, with a green highlighted circle.

Read through **Habakkuk 2** and mark every reference to the Chaldeans, the proud one, etc., including pronouns, with a pink highlighted box.

Read through **Habakkuk 2** and mark every reference to the nations with a purple flag.

Read through **Habakkuk 2** and mark every reference to woe with an orange circle filled in with orange.

Read through **Habakkuk 2** and mark every reference to the wicked with an orange capital “W”.

Read through **Habakkuk 2** and mark every reference to the righteous with a blue capital “R+”.

Read through **Habakkuk 2** and mark every reference to the vision with a blue cloud.

Read through **Habakkuk 2** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time phrase is referring to the last days or that day, fill the box in with blue to differentiate it from a general time phrase.

Read through **Habakkuk 2** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal slash, i.e. “black/white”.

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Habakkuk waits for God's answer.
2. God answers, "Wait for the vision."
3. God answers, "Woe to the proud one".

READ AND ANSWER

Habakkuk 2:1

Who is speaking in the beginning of the **second chapter** of **Habakkuk**?

With determination, Habakkuk makes a firm decision. What does he say he will do?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Where will he stand?

Where is his guard post?

As he stations himself on the watchtower, what will he keep watch to see?

- 1.
- 2.

As Habakkuk expectantly waits for an answer from His God, what does he also realize may be the case?

Is he prepared to righteously reply to God when he is reproved?

Just to make sure you keep it in mind, what question has Habakkuk asked God?

Habakkuk 2:2-3

Does the LORD answer Habakkuk?

But, does the LORD answer Habakkuk's question?

What does the LORD instruct Habakkuk to do?

1.

2.

Why is the vision to be recorded onto tablets?

How permanent did this make the vision?

Did you read it? (Exceptionally permanent, wouldn't you say!)

Why was the vision to be permanent?

POINT OF DEPTH

This vision was intended for others to read so that they may run.

I have read it.

You have read it.

**The question then becomes; have you run with this vision?
Have you proclaimed the truth of the Word of God to others?**

**Have you told the people you know that on this side of the grave,
the purpose of God's judgment is to cause repentance so that God can restore?**

Have you told the people you know there is a day of distress coming?

Have you told the people you know that the righteous live by faith?

**Have you told the people you know that soon the mystery of God's long toleration
of evil will be over?**

When is the vision for?

How quickly was it headed for its goal?

Would the vision happen at the appointed time?

Would the vision happen exactly as God described it?

What if the vision tarried? What if it seemed like the vision was not going to take place?
What is the reader to do?

If you are waiting for the vision to take place, are you keeping it in your mind all the time, or are you doing something else and forgetting all about it? What does God mean when He says to wait for the vision? (Wait means to be bound together with something.)

Is it a possibility that the vision will not come?

Will it come later than it is supposed to? Can anything keep it from coming at its appointed time?

Habakkuk 2:4-20

Now, in God's timing, He answers Habakkuk's question from **chapter 1, verse 13**. Who is He going to talk about?

Who is the proud one?

What is the state of his soul?

In contrast to the proud one, whose soul is not right within him, what is the righteous to do?

What does the righteous live by?

Faith in what?

How will the righteous live?

What is his faith?

POINT OF DEPTH

**I know I asked that question several different ways,
but it is imperative to understand what God is saying.
Ask God to open your eyes that you may see this wonderful thing in His Word.**

**This important precept of God's is ours to embrace and revel in.
Faith is the foundation of our relationship with God.
Faith is our life as well as our entry into "life".**

**John 3:16
Romans 1:17
Galatians 3:11
Hebrews 10:38**

What betrays the haughty man?

What does he do?

Why doesn't he stay at home?

What is compared to Sheol?

POINT OF DEPTH

Sheol comes from a word that means to ask or demand.

What is compared to death?

What is it that the haughty man wants?

1.

2.

What is he never satisfied with?

What does he have an appetite for?

Who will take up a taunt song for the proud one?

What will the taunt song include?

1.

2.

What will all peoples and nations say to the proud one?

What is their accusation against him?

What will the 'proud one's' creditors do when they wake up suddenly?

Who will awaken?

Who will become plunder?

Plunder for whom?

Who will loot the proud one?

Why will the remainder of the peoples loot him?

Who are the remainder of the peoples?

In the midst of looting many nations, what atrocities did the proud one commit?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Against whom is woe pronounced?

Why does he want to put his nest on high?

What has he devised?

What has he done to others?

By cutting off many peoples, what is he doing to himself?

What will the stone from the wall do?

What is the stone crying out?

What will answer the stone?

On what are the stone and the rafter in agreement?

Another woe is pronounced; against whom?

What does it mean to build a city with bloodshed?

What does it mean to build a town with violence?

What is from the Lord of hosts?

1.

2.

With what will the earth be filled?

What knowledge will the whole earth have?

How completely will the knowledge of the glory of the Lord fill the earth?

Against whom is woe pronounced in **verse 15**?

Who is it that makes his neighbors drink?

What is mixed into the drink in order to make the neighbors drunk?

POINT OF DEPTH

Just a quick thought—*are the neighbors *people* or *peoples*?*

What is the purpose of making them drunk?

What will be given instead of honor?

The one who made his neighbors drink will now be made to drink. Who will make him drink?

Where is the cup from which he will drink?

What will be the result of drinking the LORD'S cup?

What will happen to the glory of the one who made his neighbors drink?

What has been done to Lebanon?

What will overwhelm this one?

1.

2.

Who did the violence to Lebanon?

Who devastated the beasts of Lebanon?

What did the devastation of the beasts do to Lebanon?

What has been done to the land, the town and all its inhabitants?

1.

2.

Who did the violence and shed human blood?

Compare **verse 17** with **verse 8**. What do you see?

When an idol or an image has been made by someone, is it of any use?

Why not?

Can an idol even talk?

Then what could you trust it to do?

Against whom is woe pronounced?

Can a piece of wood “wake up”?

Can a stone speak?

Then how could it teach anyone?

Why is a speechless idol overlaid with gold and silver?

Will that help it to speak?

What is inside the gold and the silver?

Where is the Lord?

Where is His Holy Temple?

In light of His glory, what is all the earth to do?

POINT OF DEPTH

**Woe to men who take lifeless objects and bow their lives to them.
Woe to men who put lifeless objects above the Lord of all.**

**As the idols are nothing in comparison to the men who make them,
So are men nothing in comparison to the God who made them.**

**When the Lord speaks,
our place is to silently heed and bow in submission to His Word.**

READ AND REASON

Read through chapter 2 one more time and ponder over the proud one.

Is the proud one a person or a nation personified?

If the proud one is a nation, which nation is it?

Keep chapter 2 in the context of chapter 1 and chapter 3.

HABAKKUK - The PROPHECY

Chapter Three

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Habakkuk 3** and mark every reference to the LORD with a red triangle.

Read through **Habakkuk 3** and mark every reference to Habakkuk the prophet, including pronouns, with a green highlighted circle.

Read through **Habakkuk 3** and mark every reference to the Chaldeans, the people who will invade us, etc., including pronouns, with a pink highlighted box.

Read through **Habakkuk 3** and mark every reference to the nations with a purple flag.

Read through **Habakkuk 3** and mark every reference to the Jews with a blue Star of David.

Read through **Habakkuk 3** and mark every reference to salvation with a purple box filled in with pink.

Read through **Habakkuk 3** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time phrase is referring to the last days or that day, fill the box in with blue to differentiate it from a general time phrase.

Read through **Habakkuk 3** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal slash, i.e. "black/white".

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Habakkuk prays, "I hear and fear."
2. Habakkuk prays extolling the Holy One's power.
3. Habakkuk prays extolling the Lord's wrath
4. Habakkuk prays, "I will wait quietly for the day of distress."

READ AND ANSWER

Habakkuk 3:1-2

What is **chapter 3** identified as?

Whose prayer?

What type of prayer?

POINT OF DEPTH

**Shigionoth, according to the note in the side margin of the NASB,
means a highly emotional poetic form of prayer.**

**I wonder how many times we pray using Shigionoth?
Perhaps as we go through chapter 3 we can participate in Habakkuk's
Shigionoth...**

It may seem obvious, but I'll ask it anyway. In prayer, to Whom do you speak?

What has Habakkuk heard?

What is Habakkuk's response to the testimony concerning God?

What does Habakkuk plead for God to do?

What "work" does Habakkuk desire God to revive?

When does Habakkuk desire God to send His wrath?

In asking God to send His wrath, what does Habakkuk also request?

Upon whom is Habakkuk asking God to send His wrath?

Upon whom is Habakkuk asking God to have mercy?

Compare this **second verse** of **chapter 3** with the **second verse** of **chapter 1**. What do you see?

Habakkuk 3:3-7

POINT OF DEPTH

In these five verses Habakkuk gives a grand and glorious description of God. They are reminiscent of the picture Nahum gives us of God as a powerful warrior filled with great anger as He takes vengeance on His enemies. (Nahum 1:1-8)

**Never be ashamed of the wrath or vengeance of God!
He flawlessly executes justice in all He does.**

**Be comforted, if you are His,
because you are not destined for the wrath of God.**

**Be terrified, if you are not His,
because His wrath will come on all ungodliness and all unrighteousness!**

Where does Habakkuk picture God coming from?

Look up Teman and Mount Paran on a Bible dictionary. Where are they?

Who is God?

What does the Holy One's splendor do?

Of what is the earth full?

Is that true now?

Has this part of Habakkuk been fulfilled?

To what is God's radiance compared?

What is seen coming from His hand?

What does God's great glory hide?

What goes before God as He comes?

What follows after Him?

What does God do in Habakkuk's picture of God?

1.

2.

What happens to the perpetual mountains?

What happens to the ancient hills?

Why?

What does Habakkuk see under distress and trembling as God moves on the face of the earth?

1.

2.

Why are the people of Cushan under distress?

Why are the Midianites trembling?

Habakkuk 3:8-15

Habakkuk has been speaking in 3rd person as he talks about God. In these next eight verses he switches to 2nd person and speaks directly to God. He is still writing according to Shigionoth, a highly emotional poetic form.

Habakkuk asks a rhetorical question in very figurative language. How does He picture the LORD? What is the LORD riding? (Note the plurality of both figures.)

1.

2.

What did the LORD'S chariots bring?

In bringing salvation to His people, God necessarily needed to destroy the oppressor. Were the rivers and the sea oppressing Israel?

Because of the greatness of His rage and wrath, what happened to the rivers and the sea?

Against whom was the anger of the LORD directed? (Keep all of Habakkuk in mind.)

POINT OF CONNECTION

Over and over again in the Bible we see the power of God as He speaks.

In the beginning He created with the Word of His mouth.

Genesis 1:3

When Jesus was on earth, He showed His power through His Word.

He raised a man from the dead. John 11:43

He calmed the wind and the sea. Mark 4:39

Others knew of the power of His Word. Matthew 8:8

In the end, Jesus will strike down the nations with a sharp sword from His mouth.

Revelation 19:15

The Word of God is a double-edged sword.

Hebrews 4:12

What does it mean that the LORD'S bow was made bare?

What are the rods of chastisement?

As the LORD sent out the arrows of His Words, what happened to the earth?

Do you see a connection between **verses 8** and **9**?

What do you see? (Look for what is repeated.)

What did the mountains do when they saw God as He strode through the earth?

Where did the waters come that were sweeping by?

What uttered forth its voice?

What is the deep?

What lifted its hands high?

What are the hands of the deep?

What did the sun and the moon do as the LORD tread the earth?

Why?

How did the sun and moon go away?

What do the sun and the moon give?

Where, when the LORD was manifested, did the light come from?

1.

2.

What were the LORD'S arrows?

What was the LORD'S spear?

Against whom would the LORD'S arrows and spear be sent?

Indignation means righteous anger. Against whom did the LORD have indignation?

As the LORD marched through the earth in righteous anger against the oppressors of His people, what did He do to the nations?

Why did, or will, the LORD go forth?

Who are God's people?

Who are God's anointed?

Look up the word anoint in a dictionary. What does it mean?

How are God's people anointed?

Why are God's people anointed?

What does God do to the head of the house of evil?

What happened to him?

What did God pierce?

What did God use?

What had the evil throngs intended to do?

Look up exult in a dictionary. What does it mean?

What was their attitude as they attacked God's people?

What did God do with His horses?

Revisit the description of the Chaldeans and their war horses in **Habakkuk 1**. How do they compare with the LORD'S horses?

Habakkuk 3:16-19

Habakkuk started off speaking in 3rd person as he talked about God. Then he switched to 2nd person and spoke directly to God. He is still writing according to Shigionoth, a highly emotional poetic form as he changes to 1st person in these concluding four verses.

What did Habakkuk hear?

What was Habakkuk's emotional reaction to what he heard?

Why did Habakkuk's lips quiver?

What entered his bones?

Where does Habakkuk tremble?

Why doesn't he run away from his fear?

What must Habakkuk do?

What does it mean to wait quietly?

What is the day of distress referred to in this verse?

Who will arise and invade Israel?

What is going to happen to the fig tree during the day of distress?

What will happen to the vines during the day of distress?

What will the olive yield during the day of distress?

What will the fields produce during the day of distress?

What will happen to the flocks during the day of distress?

What will happen to the cattle during the day of distress?

Even though all of the above will happen, what is Habakkuk determinately set to do?

Over what did the Chaldeans exult? (**Habakkuk 3:14**)

In what will Habakkuk exult?

In Whom will Habakkuk rejoice?

Are exultation and rejoicing appropriate to someone who is just enduring or surviving?

Though everything above will happen, what will Habakkuk, the righteous, do?

How can this be?

Who is his strength?

What was the Chaldeans god? (**Habakkuk 1:11**)

What has God given Habakkuk?

What does God cause Habakkuk to do?

Compare **verse 16** with **verse 19**. What change do you see in Habakkuk?

From where do his security and trust and confidence come?

How is Habakkuk living? **Habakkuk 2:4b**

How are you living?

READ AND REASON

The final three paragraphs of Habakkuk 3 are captivating. In Habakkuk 3:3-7 Habakkuk speaks in 3rd person because he is speaking *about* God. In Habakkuk 3:8-15 Habakkuk speaks in 2nd person because he is speaking *to* God. In the last paragraph, Habakkuk 3:16-19, he speaks in 1st person as a *personal* reaction to the vision. Can you see any progression or direction in Habakkuk's writing? Remember, he is writing according to Shigionoth, a highly emotional poetical form.