Learning About Faith From Habakkuk

Jesse LaRue · Habakkuk 1:1–3:19

INTRODUCTION

- Habakkuk prophesied during the period of after Israel had been taken away in his captivity, but before Judah's conquest and captivity by the Babylonians.
- Habakkuk is actually taking the complaint of the people in his own feelings to God. And God answers him, much as we see in the book of Job.
- What we see in this book is a progression from questioning God's justice and judgment, his care for his people, to being assured of God's ultimate salvation.

1 His Burden: Faith Dealing With the Problem

Habakkuk 1:1–4; Habakkuk 1:5–11; Habakkuk 1:12–17

- O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you, violence, and you will not save.
- God's raising up the Chaldeans to execute justice is going to show his sovereignty. It's going to show us that he is in control, that he is in control still today.
- We have to understand and believe in his sovereignty and his rule over all things in this world.
- The fact of the matter is that sin is sin. And no one is innocent.
- We must have faith in the sovereignty and the justice of God. We cannot use a lesser of two evils argument.

2 His Vision: The Righteous Shall Live by Faith

Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38

- Behold, his soul is puffed up. It is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.
- You must live by your faith. Despite the things that are going on around you, despite the persecutions and the temptations.
- But the Lord is in his holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before him.
- For Habakkuk, the message was clear. Stop complaining. Stop doubting. God is not indifferent to sin. He is not insensitive to suffering.
- While God may use a wicked nation like Babylon to punish the wickedness of Judah, he will not let Babylon's wickedness go unpunished either.
- The solution is to have faith in him and to live by that faith. It is to understand that he is in control.

3 A Prayer: In Wrath Remember Mercy

Habakkuk 3:1–2; Habakkuk 3:3–15; Habakkuk 3:17–19

- O Lord, I have heard the report of you and your work, O Lord, do I fear? In the midst of the years, revive it.
- We need to pray that prayer. For God in his wrath to remember mercy. Because without that, we are hopelessly lost.
- He praises him for his salvation, understanding that God always brings justice and judgment to the wicked.
- Yet I will rejoice in the Lord. I will take joy in the God of my salvation.
- Not just trusting in God, but rejoicing in him.
- Yes, things are hard. But the righteous shall live by faith.

4 What Lessons Can We Learn From This Short Book

Galatians 3:10–14; Romans 1:16–17; Hebrews 10:35–39

- One, we need to have faith in the universal supremacy of God's judgment on the wicked.
- We need to understand that evil is self-destructive. If the righteous can be patient, trusting in the Lord, then the tyranny and arrogance of the wicked will eventually fall.
- Number three, we need to understand and learn the fact of divine discipline.
- And perhaps the most important lesson concerns the value of faith.
- Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law. For the righteous shall live by faith.
- If we do not live by faith, we cannot hope to inherit salvation. We must learn to persevere.

THE CHALLENGE

If that's not your kind of faith, let us invite you to make it that. Make that choice. It is a choice. To live by faith.

MY NOTES