

GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME FOUR
AN INVITATION TO RETURN—A SURVEY OF HOSEA–MALACHI
HABAKKUK: WRESTLING, WAITING, PRAYING, PRAISING
A SURVEY OF HABAKKUK



The Heart of the Matter

We have often commented on how up-to-date Scripture really is. There is no doubt that it is “living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword” (Hebrews 4:12). The book we are considering in this message is a perfect example of biblical relevance. Time and again, you will find yourself in the verses of Habakkuk! The ancient prophet, witnessing the evils around him, wrestled with God’s seemingly indifferent attitude. It was an offensive contradiction to His holy nature. But when God revealed His plan, an even *greater* problem arose. So Habakkuk decided to get alone and wait for his mind to clear. God gave him a fresh vision . . . hope beyond his despair, which resulted in a time of meaningful prayer as Habakkuk praised the awesome Lord of heaven and earth.



Discovering the Way

1. The Burden

Habakkuk had a complaint to bring against the Lord (1:1–4). The Lord heard Habakkuk’s complaint and answered (1:5–11). But Habakkuk couldn’t believe his ears and reacted (1:12–17).

2. The Watch

Habakkuk waited for the Lord to help him understand God’s ways (2:1).

3. The Vision

God spoke to Habakkuk and told him to write (2:2) and to wait (2:3–6) because woe would come to the Chaldeans (2:6–20).

4. The Prayer

Habakkuk composed a prayer/psalm praising God’s person (3:4–7), God’s Word (3:8–15), and God’s help (3:16–19).

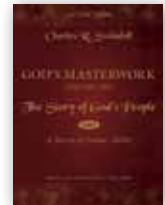


Starting Your Journey

The application from the book of Habakkuk is threefold. First, God can handle all our questions but will answer only a few. Second, waiting strengthens our patience and lengthens our perspective. Third, the bottom line of faith is not to remove all doubts but to be sure of God.



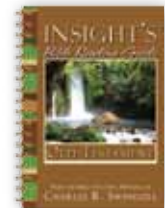
Tools for Digging Deeper



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HABAKKUK

| | Habakkuk's Dialogue with God | | | Habakkuk's Praise to God |
|--------------------|---|---|---|--|
| | <p><i>The Burden</i></p> <p>Wrestling with: God's silence Judah's sinfulness God's character</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Questions: How long? Why? Who?</p> <p><i>CHAPTER 1</i></p> | <p><i>The Watch</i></p> <p>Waiting for <u>an answer</u></p> <p><i>CHAPTER 2:1</i></p> | <p><i>The Vision</i></p> <p><u>Record the vision!</u></p> <p><u>Wait for it!</u></p> <p><u>Woe to the Babylonians!</u></p> <p><i>CHAPTER 2:2–20</i></p> | <p>Lord, I've heard ... I stand in awe ... I wait ... I praise ... I rejoice</p> <p><i>CHAPTER 3</i></p> |
| Confession | "Lord . . . You confuse me." | "Lord . . . I wait for You." | | "Lord . . . I praise You." |
| Perspective | Horizontal | Vertical | | |
| Direction | Looking around and worrying | Looking up and listening | | Looking ahead and believing |
| Theme | Habakkuk's wrestling with God over His unfathomable ways and the prophet's resulting faith | | | |
| Key Verses | 2:4; 3:17–19 | | | |
| Christ in Habakkuk | Those who have been made righteous in Christ must "live by [their] faith" (2:4). When Christ comes again, "the earth will be filled / With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, / As the waters cover the sea" (2:14). | | | |

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