

Bible Synthesis IV
(Bible Survey)

INTRODUCTION TO
HABAKKUK

1. INTRODUCTION

In this little book is found the theme verse of the entire Bible relating to justification (Hab. 2:4). This is the subject verse of 3 New Testament books: Romans, Galatians, and Hebrews. This truth, as quoted in Rom. 1:17, was the truth which gripped the heart of Martin Luther and caused him to lead in a great reformation in Europe. Job asked, “How should a man be just with God?” (Job 9:2) Habakkuk answers, “the just shall live by his faith” (Hab. 2:4). Paul, the great Apostle, picks up this song, showing us that man has been justified by faith throughout all of human history. There is no other way.

In Romans we see, “The *just* shall live by faith” (Rom. 1:17). In Galatians it is, “The just shall *live* by faith” (Gal. 3:11). And in Hebrews it is, “The just shall live by *faith*” (Heb. 10:38). This is the composite message.

2. AUTHOR

The Prophet Habakkuk = “embrace” — 1:1

Nothing is known of him or of his life other than this single verse and the fact that he wrote this book. There has been much speculation about Habakkuk.

Suffice it to say that Habakkuk is one of God’s prophets, and that the words found in his book are God-breathed (inspired of God). We need not know all about the human author, so long as we know the Divine Author.

3. RECIPIENTS

No particular group is addressed, but it was no doubt originally to or *for* Judah, who was threatened by the Babylonian conquest.

4. DATE OF WRITING

There is no definite information given which may be used to date this book. No kings or events are mentioned. However, from the textual information, some scholars have concluded that the book was written during the reign of King Jehoiakim (609–597 B.C.). Others have it dated a little earlier, during the reign of Josiah. [The chart of *Old Testament Kings and Prophets*, by John C. Whitcomb, Th.D., puts it during the reign of Josiah, or from about 620 B.C. to 610 B.C., though the duration of his ministry is not known either.]

5. PURPOSE OF THE BOOK

Habakkuk could not reconcile his faith in a good and righteous God with the facts of life as he saw them. This book is his conversation with God.

Chapter 1: Habakkuk sees all of the unpunished sin in Judah.

Why does God allow it? — 1:2–4

He will punish Judah by the Chaldeans.

“Why,” the Prophet asks, “does God judge by a cruel nation?” — 1:12; 2:1

God answers that He will punish through the Chaldeans.

Chapter 2: God will judge the Chaldeans — This chapter contains a five-fold woe.

Chapter 3: A psalm of absolute and sublime trust in the LORD.

6. THEME

The just shall live by faith.

7. KEY PASSAGE

Habakkuk 2:4

8. KEY TERM

“How long” — 1:2

“Why?” — 1:3

“Wherefore” — 1:13

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**OUTLINE OF
HABAKKUK**

- 1. The Prophet's Complaint —1:1–4**
 - Regarding Unjudged Sin in Judah
- 2. The LORD's Reply —1:5–11**
 - Judgment Will Come Through the Chaldeans
- 3. The Prophet's Complaint —1:12 – 2:1**
 - Against the Wickedness of the Chaldeans
- 4. The LORD's Reply —2:2–20**
 - Judgment Will Come on the Chaldeans Too
- 5. The Prophet's Prayer for Revival —3:1–19**
 - And the Expression of His Supreme Faith in the LORD

