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The Chapters of Habakkuk

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Habakkuk

SECTION OUTLINE ONE (HABAKKUK 1-3)

Habakkuk searches for answers to two questions and is reassured by God.

I. THE SEARCH (1:1-2:13, 15-20): Habakkuk asks God two questions.

A. The first Q&A (1:1-11)

1. Q: Will Judah be punished? (1:1-4): Habakkuk is troubled over:
 - a. Jehovah's silence (1:1-2): Habakkuk's prayers about the terrible violence in the land have gone unanswered.
 - b. Judah's sins (1:3-4): There is destruction, violence, arguing, fighting, and injustice everywhere.
2. A: Judah will be punished (1:5-11).
 - a. The soldiers (1:5-6): God will send the Babylonians to chasten his people.
 - b. The severity (1:7): These warriors are notorious for their cruelty.
 - c. The symbols (1:8-9): Their soldiers are like
 - (1) Swift leopards (1:8a)
 - (2) Fierce wolves (1:8b)
 - (3) Devouring eagles (1:8c-9)
 - d. The scorn (1:10-11): They laugh at their enemies, holding them in great contempt.

B. The second Q&A (1:12-17; 2:1-13, 15-20)

1. Q: Will Babylon be punished? (1:12-17): Babylon is even more wicked than Judah.
2. A: Babylon will be punished (2:1-13, 15-20).
 - a. The record (2:1-2): God tells Habakkuk to write the answer on a tablet in large, clear letters so that everyone can get the message.
 - b. The reassurance (2:3): Even though it might appear that God is delaying judgment, Babylon will eventually be crushed.
 - c. The righteous (2:4): Until then, those in exile should live by faith.
 - d. The reasons (2:5-13, 15-19): God will judge Babylon for her many sins:
 - (1) Drunkenness and greed (2:5)
 - (2) Brutal treatment of the nations (2:6)
 - (3) The shedding of blood (2:7-13)
 - (4) Being merchants of terror (2:15-16)
 - (5) Destroying other lands (2:17)
 - (6) Gross idolatry (2:18-19)
 - e. The respect (2:20): "The LORD is in his holy Temple. Let all the earth be silent before him."

II. THE SOLUTION (2:14; 3:1-19): Habakkuk is reassured.

A. Because of what he has heard (2:14; 3:1-2)

1. About God's fame and deeds (3:1-2)
2. About the entire earth someday being filled with God's glory (2:14)

B. Because of what he now sees (3:3-19): In essence, he views the majesty of the Almighty moving across the earth.

1. God's splendor (3:3-4): His glory is as the sunrise. "Rays of brilliant light flash from his hands."
2. God's strength (3:5-12, 14-15)
 - a. He judges with pestilence and plague (3:5).
 - b. He shakes the nations, shatters the mountains, and levels the hills (3:6).
 - c. He utterly crushes his enemies (3:7-12, 14-15).
3. God's salvation (3:13): He delivers his chosen people.
4. God's security (3:16-19): Because of all he has seen, heard, and experienced, Habakkuk determines that he will:

- a. Trust God in time of fear (3:16)
- b. Trust God in time of famine (3:17-19)