

## Habakkuk Intro & Background Pt. 3

### Habakkuk 1:1, CBC December 13, 2023 Lord, From Sorrows Deep v. 2

1:1 oracle—burden—often speaking of judgment/doom, here, focus on divine revelation in dialogue b/n Habakkuk and God; We've spent two weeks giving picture leading up to Habakkuk's time and the reign of Jehoiakim of Judah (609-597) and thought of some general lessons can learn 1. **God brings respite even while movement toward impending judgment. Use it wisely. the church has gone to sleep, largely b/c we have centered on ourselves as we pursue our dreams/agendas, even subtly as we seek to honor God's words; must scrub self-centeredness at deepest levels as live to seek His kingdom first** 2. **Worship God's judgment as a sign of God's holy justice** 3. **Must look farther for God's justice, mercy, deliverance** Larger cycles than just immediate—must look farther/higher for hope; look THROUGH judgment to see God's deliverance; contrast Habakkuk 3:2 w 3:16-19; kingdom perspective; **but now want you to think of how these people felt and the path forward to hope and fellowship with God** righteous must have been hit hard—how could righteous Josiah be killed by foreign king? How could his sons be so wicked; Jewish leaders seem to be oppressing, not following God's law (torah)—just getting over fear of Assyrians b/r positive certainty that Babylon would sweep through; Bailey notes, "It was an agitated time, characterized by rapid political change, international turmoil, bloody military encounters, and a growing rebellion against the demands of the covenant by the great majority in Judah. Prophetic activity was feverish, not only with the ministries of people like Jeremiah, Nahum, Zephaniah, Huldah, and Ezekiel, but also with false prophets in abundance." P. 251 **Main Theme: includes injustice, doubt, questioning, fears, suffering, looking for hope, but Elizabeth Achtemeier "shows that Habakkuk is not primarily about (1) the justice of God, a theme the prophet assumes rather than debates; (2) human doubt since the prophet maintains strong communion with God and expects the right answers from God; (3) human suffering and helplessness before the world's evil powers, that being the setting of the book not the theme." Bailey, p. 276** **Key is posture, What do you think should be the posture we take in face of injustice, doubts, fears, and lack of hope and what fights against it? 1. Come before God honestly and humbly** numerous godly men dared question God, wanting to know/understand more of His workings—Moses, Jeremiah, Job, Habakkuk; can you think of others? **what happens if fail to be honest with God?** perhaps problem doesn't start w relationship w God; **what prevents honesty in other relationships and what does this do to relationships?** YET, honesty must have boundaries—not just free for all with justice, doubt, suffering/helplessness **2. Come seeking to submit to God's Word, but make connections to your life with careful precision** "Habakkuk's message is relevant to all times and peoples, as we are taught in the full scope of the canon (II Tim. 3:16-17). But the problem is this: how can we contemporize his words without weakening the meaning they had in their original setting? It is all too easy to declare that we are under no obligation to discover the meaning Habakkuk's message had for its original author or first audience. But we do so at the risk of losing the authority and any objective controls over what the text is saying. After all, it was the prophet who stood in the council of God, not we. And it is the author who must first state what he means to say if we are to gain any sense of what the Spirit of God is saying to our day and generation." Pp. 149-150 Kaiser, The Communicator's Commentary **How would we "declare that we are under no obligation to discover the meaning Habakkuk's message had for its original author or first audience?" What did all these men have that we might be in danger of forgetting when we confront these topics? What else do you think we need?** Character, careful thinking, patience—greater purposes to keep working on while wait—what does it mean to set your mind on things above; what does it mean to lay up treasures in heaven? What does, "when the fullness of time came," and "the time past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desires of the Gentiles . . . live no longer for the lusts of men but for the will of God." Achtemeier concludes, **Habakkuk not primarily about justice of God, human doubt, nor human suffering and helplessness. Rather, She prefers "to frame the primary purpose from a divine perspective: Habakkuk is 'above all else a book about the purposes of God and about the realization of his will for his world.'" Bailey, P. 276** Sum up? The providence of God—watching and working; Look at this book to humbly learn about God's providence; perhaps we could say, **THEME of Habakkuk: The Path of Faith in the Providence of God;** in order to do this, posture must **3. Avoid the easy route of venting and taking apart. Come prepared to do the hard work to build up your faith.**