

Habakkuk has sometimes been referred to as the doubting Thomas of the Old Testament. The book bearing his name could be seen as pages from a diary since it reveals very personal and emotional questions about the seeming inactivity and unresponsiveness of God. The problem of unanswered prayer, injustice and the prosperity of evil people begin to take their toll and his personal resolve to live by God's word begins to seem futile.

For all believers that are willing to seriously examine the promises of scripture and struggle to trust in them and live by God's commands, there are times that our faith in God is tested by the harsh realities seen in the world around us. Like the Jeremiah we are tempted to ask "Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do all the faithless live at ease?" (Jer. 12:1). The promises of God seem to be distant at best and doubts of his ability to accomplish all He has said begin dim any hope for the future. But it is at this point that the real question we are faced with is not what is God doing, but what will we do?

**Background:**

- Habakkuk is a Prophet; some question that he may have been a Priest turned Prophet, a hard vocational shift. (priest was respected for their office, prophet was despised for their message)
- Lived prior to the Babylon invasion during Judah's last period of prosperity
- Conditions during his life would have ranged from excellent (with considerable material prosperity and even promise of spiritual revival) to the height of desperation as the net of Babylon closed around the capital of Jerusalem.

**Faith Tested – Chapter 1**

Habakkuk had a growing problem as he tried to reconcile his trust in God with what he saw happening in the world around him.

1. Unanswered Prayer - 1:2
2. Injustice – 1:3
3. Corruption – 1:4
4. Inconsistencies – 1:5-11

## Faith Taught – Chapter 2

After hearing of the judgment God was about to bring on Jerusalem, Habakkuk is faced with a choice: to spring into action to do all he can to minimize the damage and loss, or turn look for direction for God.

1. Habakkuk's Response – 2:1
  - a. Stand and wait for God's word
  
  - b. Prepare to follow God's word
  
2. God's Reply – 2:2-20
  - a. God's plan will be accomplished
  
  - b. God's Judgment against the Proud
  
  - c. God's Assurances for the Righteous

## Faith Triumphant – Chapter 3

In the face of the knowledge of God, His word and His plan, Habakkuk's response is one that is both inspiring and challenging.

1. Humble Worship (3:2)
  
2. Prayer (3:2)
  
3. Psalm of Praise (3:3-15)
  
4. Renewed patience and Hope (3:16-19)

Habakkuk ends the book without changed circumstances but with a recharged trust in God. In a real sense he was saying "Bring it on!!" The worst is no match for the God he trusted in to bring him salvation and deliverance.

## Study Questions:

1. What is our response to things that upset us or cause discomfort?
2. What are appropriate actions we should engage in during uncertain times?
3. Why is it difficult to Trust God and wait for leading and possibly provision?
4. From this book we can see that God's plans of judgment may affect His people. How can the church respond? What should we do as individual Christians?