

Something Beautiful from a Tangled Mess

A Study of Habakkuk

Session #2 The Outraged Prophet

Habakkuk Chapter 1:12 – 2:20

Sladebrook Evangelical Church

www.sladebrook.org.uk

Why do bad things happen to good people? Why do bad people seem to prosper for stepping on the good? Why does God not step in and prevent suffering? Is it possible for a good God to use evil in his own purposes?

These are all questions raised by the Prophet Habakkuk.

Habakkuk was very much a man that we can relate to. Unlike many Bible characters, he wasn't a king or the kind of prophet that took messages from God to kings. The book of Habakkuk doesn't even begin in the normal way with, "The word of the Lord which came to..." Instead, Habakkuk talks to God first, and God answers him. Wonderfully, here we have an open conversation between God and Habakkuk. This short book contains God's promise of world changing events. However, more than anything else, the book is about God working in the heart of Habakkuk himself.

Habakkuk lived through a very dark time in the history of God's people. Their leaders oppressed the people and worshipped idols. 2 Kings describes them as even worse than the people who lived in the Promised Land before they arrived. Habakkuk sees the state his country lies in and complains to God, begging Him to clean up the mess. Habakkuk would find many surprises in store for him.

Read Habakkuk 1:1-11 if needed

- *Remind yourself of Habakkuk's complaint and the LORD's answer. How would you feel being given a response like this?*

Read Habakkuk 1:12-2:1

- *What truths does Habakkuk state about God?*
- *How do these truths form the basis for a complaint against God?*
- *(14-17) Habakkuk uses an analogy of a fisherman. Who is the fisherman? What is Habakkuk's problem with the fisherman's behaviour?*
- *How does Habakkuk demonstrate humility in 2:1?*

Read Habakkuk 2:2-5

- *How does the man without an upright soul live?*
- *Contrast this with the righteous man. Look up Gal 3:1-14 for help.*

Read Habakkuk 2:6-20

- *What is the consequence of idolatry, putting your trust in something not God?*
- *What are the biggest idols worshipped in twenty-first century Britain?*
- *What are the biggest idols that we could be tempted to worship in Sladebrook?*
- *Recommit yourself to God in prayer.*