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Habakkuk

The book of Habakkuk is one of the minor prophets in the Christian Bible, and it is composed of three chapters. The book is unique in that it records a conversation between the prophet Habakkuk and God.

Habakkuk begins by asking God why there is so much injustice in the world, particularly among God's own people. He is distressed by the violence and corruption he sees around him and wonders why God seems to be doing nothing about it. God answers Habakkuk by telling him that He will bring judgment upon the wicked Babylonians who are causing so much trouble.

However, this answer doesn't satisfy Habakkuk, who wonders how God can use a more wicked nation to punish a less wicked one. He asks God how long the Babylonians will continue to oppress the people of Judah. God responds by saying that the Babylonians will eventually be punished as well.

In the final chapter, Habakkuk prays to God, expressing his faith in God's ultimate justice and power, despite not understanding the ways in which God chooses to work. He proclaims that he will wait patiently for God's deliverance.

Overall, the book of Habakkuk deals with the problem of evil and how God can allow it to exist in the world. It also emphasizes the importance of faith in God, even in difficult times.

in Christian bible; the book " Habakkuk "; can you give me a brief description on each chapter

Sure, here's a brief description of each chapter of the book of Habakkuk in the Christian Bible:

Chapter 1: In this chapter, Habakkuk questions God about why there is so much injustice and wickedness in the world, particularly among God's own people. He wonders why God seems to be inactive in the face of such evil.

Chapter 2: God responds to Habakkuk, telling him that He will bring judgment upon the Babylonians, who are causing so much trouble. God explains that the Babylonians will ultimately be punished for their wickedness.

Chapter 3: In this final chapter, Habakkuk prays to God, expressing his faith in God's ultimate justice and power, despite not understanding the ways in which God chooses to work. He proclaims that he will wait patiently for God's deliverance, and the chapter ends with a hymn of praise to God.

Habakkuk 1

New International Version

1 The prophecy that Habakkuk the prophet received.

Habakkuk's Complaint

2 How long, Lord, must I call for help,
but you do not listen?
Or cry out to you, "Violence!"
but you do not save?
3 Why do you make me look at injustice?
Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?
Destruction and violence are before me;
there is strife, and conflict abounds.
4 Therefore the law is paralyzed,
and justice never prevails.
The wicked hem in the righteous,
so that justice is perverted.

The Lord's Answer

5 "Look at the nations and watch—
and be utterly amazed.
For I am going to do something in your days
that you would not believe,
even if you were told.
6 I am raising up the Babylonians,[a]
that ruthless and impetuous people,
who sweep across the whole earth
to seize dwellings not their own.
7 They are a feared and dreaded people;
they are a law to themselves
and promote their own honor.
8 Their horses are swifter than leopards,
fiercer than wolves at dusk.
Their cavalry gallops headlong;
their horsemen come from afar.
They fly like an eagle swooping to devour;
9 they all come intent on violence.

Their hordes[b] advance like a desert wind
and gather prisoners like sand.
10 They mock kings
and scoff at rulers.
They laugh at all fortified cities;
by building earthen ramps they capture them.
11 Then they sweep past like the wind and go on—
guilty people, whose own strength is their god.”

Habakkuk's Second Complaint

12 Lord, are you not from everlasting?
My God, my Holy One, you[c] will never die.
You, Lord, have appointed them to execute judgment;
you, my Rock, have ordained them to punish.
13 Your eyes are too pure to look on evil;
you cannot tolerate wrongdoing.
Why then do you tolerate the treacherous?
Why are you silent while the wicked
swallow up those more righteous than themselves?
14 You have made people like the fish in the sea,
like the sea creatures that have no ruler.
15 The wicked foe pulls all of them up with hooks,
he catches them in his net,
he gathers them up in his dragnet;
and so he rejoices and is glad.
16 Therefore he sacrifices to his net
and burns incense to his dragnet,
for by his net he lives in luxury
and enjoys the choicest food.
17 Is he to keep on emptying his net,
destroying nations without mercy?

Footnotes

Habakkuk 1:6 Or Chaldeans

Habakkuk 1:9 The meaning of the Hebrew for this word is uncertain.

Habakkuk 1:12 An ancient Hebrew scribal tradition; Masoretic Text we

Chapter 1 of Habakkuk begins with the prophet expressing his frustration and confusion to God about the state of the world. He sees violence, iniquity, and destruction all around him, and he cannot understand why God seems to be doing nothing to stop it. Habakkuk asks God how long he must cry out for help before God will listen to him. In response, God tells Habakkuk that he is going to do something that will be shocking to everyone, including the Israelites. God is going to raise up the Babylonians, a people known for their brutality and cruelty, to punish Israel for their disobedience and wickedness. Habakkuk is even more dismayed at this news, wondering how God could use a people even more wicked than Israel to punish Israel.

The chapter ends with Habakkuk's second complaint to God, in which he asks God how he can justify allowing the Babylonians to do such terrible things in the world. Habakkuk is struggling with the concept of God's justice and why he would allow such wickedness to exist. Despite his doubts, Habakkuk remains faithful and continues to seek God's guidance and understanding.

Here are some important verses from chapter 1 of the book of Habakkuk in the Christian Bible, along with a brief explanation and the verse reference:

Verse 2: "O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you 'Violence!' and you will not save?" - Habakkuk expresses his frustration and confusion to God about the state of the world and wonders why God seems to be doing nothing to stop the violence and iniquity. (Habakkuk 1:2)

Verse 5: "Look at the nations, and see! Be astonished! Be astounded! For a work is being done in your days that you would not believe if you were told." - God responds to Habakkuk and tells him that he is going to raise up the Babylonians to punish Israel for their disobedience and wickedness. This news shocks Habakkuk and he cannot believe that God would use such a wicked people to carry out his plan. (Habakkuk 1:5)

Verse 12: "Are you not from of old, O Lord my God, my Holy One? You shall not die. O Lord, you have marked them for judgment; and you, O Rock, have established them for punishment." - Habakkuk recognizes that God is eternal and unchanging, and that he is the one who will ultimately judge the Babylonians for their sins. (Habakkuk 1:12)

Verse 13: "You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrongdoing, why do you idly look at traitors and remain silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he?" - Habakkuk struggles with the concept of God's justice and wonders why he would allow such wickedness to exist. He questions God's inaction in the face of evil. (Habakkuk 1:13)

The book of Habakkuk in the Old Testament is a relatively short prophetic book consisting of three chapters. It is one of the twelve Minor Prophets and is often categorized as a book of prophecy and lament. The theological thought and theological influence in Habakkuk chapter 1 can be summarized as follows:

Theological Thought in Habakkuk Chapter 1:

Questioning God's Justice: In the opening verses of Habakkuk chapter 1, the prophet Habakkuk raises a theological question about the apparent injustice and violence he sees in the world. He questions why God tolerates wrongdoing and why He seems silent in the face of wickedness.

God's Response: God responds to Habakkuk's questioning by revealing His plans. He informs the prophet that He will use the Babylonians, a ruthless and powerful nation, to bring judgment upon the sinful nation of Judah. This response raises further theological questions about God's methods and the use of a seemingly more wicked nation to punish a less wicked one.

The Righteous Shall Live by Faith: One of the key theological insights in Habakkuk chapter 1 is the statement that "the righteous shall live by his faith" (Habakkuk 2:4). This concept emphasizes the importance of faith in God even in times of uncertainty and adversity. It becomes a significant theological theme not only in Habakkuk but also in the New Testament, where it is quoted in the Book of Romans (Romans 1:17) and Galatians (Galatians 3:11), highlighting the enduring theological influence of Habakkuk's message.

Theological Influence:

The theological themes found in Habakkuk chapter 1 have had a significant influence on both Jewish and Christian thought and theology throughout history. Here are some ways in which Habakkuk's message has been influential:

Faith and Justice: The concept that the righteous should live by faith has been a foundational idea in Christian theology. It has been central in discussions about faith, righteousness, and the relationship between God and humanity.

The Problem of Evil and Suffering: Habakkuk's questioning of God's justice in the face of evil and suffering reflects a common theological and philosophical dilemma. This book has been studied and referenced in discussions about theodicy, which explores how a good and just God can allow evil and suffering to exist in the world.

Prophetic Witness: The book of Habakkuk, with its honest questioning and dialogue with God, serves as an example of how the prophets of the Old Testament engaged with God and their society. It demonstrates the role of prophets in challenging the status quo and calling people to repentance.

In summary, Habakkuk chapter 1 raises important theological questions about God's justice and the role of faith in challenging times. It has had a lasting influence on theological thought, particularly in discussions about faith, justice, and the problem of evil.

Habakkuk 2

New International Version

2 I will stand at my watch
and station myself on the ramparts;
I will look to see what he will say to me,
and what answer I am to give to this complaint.[a]

The Lord's Answer

2 Then the Lord replied:

“Write down the revelation
and make it plain on tablets
so that a herald[b] may run with it.
3 For the revelation awaits an appointed time;

it speaks of the end
and will not prove false.
Though it linger, wait for it;
it[c] will certainly come
and will not delay.

4 “See, the enemy is puffed up;
his desires are not upright—
but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness[d]—

5 indeed, wine betrays him;
he is arrogant and never at rest.
Because he is as greedy as the grave
and like death is never satisfied,
he gathers to himself all the nations
and takes captive all the peoples.

6 “Will not all of them taunt him with ridicule and scorn, saying,

“Woe to him who piles up stolen goods
and makes himself wealthy by extortion!
How long must this go on?”

7 Will not your creditors suddenly arise?
Will they not wake up and make you tremble?
Then you will become their prey.

8 Because you have plundered many nations,
the peoples who are left will plunder you.
For you have shed human blood;
you have destroyed lands and cities and everyone in them.

9 “Woe to him who builds his house by unjust gain,
setting his nest on high
to escape the clutches of ruin!

10 You have plotted the ruin of many peoples,
shaming your own house and forfeiting your life.

11 The stones of the wall will cry out,
and the beams of the woodwork will echo it.

12 “Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed
and establishes a town by injustice!

13 Has not the Lord Almighty determined
that the people’s labor is only fuel for the fire,
that the nations exhaust themselves for nothing?

14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

15 “Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbors,

pouring it from the wineskin till they are drunk,
so that he can gaze on their naked bodies!
16 You will be filled with shame instead of glory.
Now it is your turn! Drink and let your nakedness be exposed[e]!
The cup from the Lord's right hand is coming around to you,
and disgrace will cover your glory.
17 The violence you have done to Lebanon will overwhelm you,
and your destruction of animals will terrify you.
For you have shed human blood;
you have destroyed lands and cities and everyone in them.

18 "Of what value is an idol carved by a craftsman?
Or an image that teaches lies?
For the one who makes it trusts in his own creation;
he makes idols that cannot speak.
19 Woe to him who says to wood, 'Come to life!'
Or to lifeless stone, 'Wake up!'
Can it give guidance?
It is covered with gold and silver;
there is no breath in it."

20 The Lord is in his holy temple;
let all the earth be silent before him.

Footnotes

Habakkuk 2:1 Or and what to answer when I am rebuked

Habakkuk 2:2 Or so that whoever reads it

Habakkuk 2:3 Or Though he linger, wait for him; / he

Habakkuk 2:4 Or faith

Habakkuk 2:16 Masoretic Text; Dead Sea Scrolls, Aquila, Vulgate and Syriac (see also Septuagint) and stagger

In chapter 2, God responds to Habakkuk's second complaint by instructing him to write down a vision of what is to come. The vision concerns the judgment that is to come upon the Babylonians for their wickedness and pride. The Babylonians had been arrogant, believing that they were unstoppable and invincible. But God tells Habakkuk that their pride will be their downfall and that they will be punished for their sins.

God also reminds Habakkuk that the righteous will live by faith, even when things look bleak. The Babylonians may appear to be strong and unstoppable, but their downfall is inevitable. Habakkuk is encouraged to wait for God's timing and to trust in his promises. The chapter also includes a series of "woes" or pronouncements of judgment against the Babylonians. These woes highlight the specific sins of the Babylonians, such as their greed, violence, and idolatry, and predict the consequences that they will face as a result. The chapter concludes with a declaration of God's glory and sovereignty. Habakkuk recognizes that God is in control of all things, and that he is worthy of praise and

worship. Despite the challenges and difficulties that he and his people may face, Habakkuk remains confident in God's ultimate victory over evil.

Here are some important verses from chapter 2 of the book of Habakkuk in the Christian Bible, along with a brief explanation and verse reference:

Verse 2: "And the Lord answered me: 'Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it.'" - Habakkuk receives a message from God to write down a vision of the judgment that will come upon Babylon for their pride and violence. This is a call to clarity and a sense of urgency for the people to understand the message and to act upon it. (Habakkuk 2:2)

Verse 3: "For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay." - God reminds Habakkuk that although judgment may seem slow in coming, it will certainly come at the appointed time. This verse emphasizes the importance of faith and patience in God's plan. (Habakkuk 2:3)

Verse 4: "Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith." - God contrasts the proud and arrogant Babylonians with the righteous who live by faith. This verse has become a well-known statement of faith in the New Testament and emphasizes the importance of faith as the means of salvation. (Habakkuk 2:4)

Verse 14: "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." - This verse speaks of a future time when God's glory will be fully revealed and acknowledged by all people. This is a hopeful and encouraging message that emphasizes God's ultimate victory over evil and the ultimate fulfillment of His plan for the world. (Habakkuk 2:14)

Habakkuk chapter 2 continues the dialogue between the prophet Habakkuk and God, and it contains several significant theological thoughts and influences:

Theological Thought in Habakkuk Chapter 2:

The Righteous Shall Live by Faith: This theme, introduced in Habakkuk 1:4, is further developed in chapter 2. The verse "the righteous shall live by his faith" (Habakkuk 2:4) is central to this chapter and is a key theological concept in both the Old and New Testaments. It emphasizes that the righteous are called to live in faith and trust in God's justice and promises, even when circumstances seem bleak.

Pride and Arrogance Will Be Judged: In this chapter, God pronounces a series of "woes" upon the wicked. These "woes" are denunciations against various forms of evil, including pride, greed, and violence. Theological thought in this section highlights the divine judgment upon those who exalt themselves and oppress others.

The Earth Will Be Filled with the Knowledge of God: In Habakkuk 2:14, there is a vision of a future time when "the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." This verse expresses a theological hope for the ultimate recognition of God's glory and sovereignty by all people.

The Inevitability of God's Judgment: Throughout this chapter, there is a theological emphasis on the certainty of God's judgment against the wicked. The Babylonians, who are instruments of God's judgment, will themselves face divine retribution for their cruelty and idolatry.

Theological Influence:

The theological themes found in Habakkuk chapter 2 have had a significant influence on biblical interpretation and theological thought throughout history:

The Righteousness of Faith: The statement "the righteous shall live by faith" from Habakkuk 2:4 has profound theological implications. It became a key verse for the apostle Paul in the New Testament and played a central role in the development of the doctrine of justification by faith in Christian theology. This verse is quoted in the New Testament in Romans 1:17 and Galatians 3:11, highlighting its enduring influence.

Divine Judgment and Justice: The theological emphasis on divine judgment against the wicked in Habakkuk 2 has shaped discussions on the justice of God and the consequences of human sin. It is a reminder of the biblical teaching that God is a just God who holds both individuals and nations accountable for their actions.

Hope for the Future: The vision of the earth being filled with the knowledge of God's glory in Habakkuk 2:14 has inspired hope for a future where God's presence and righteousness are fully recognized and acknowledged. This theme of eschatological hope continues to influence discussions on the ultimate destiny of creation in Christian theology.

In summary, Habakkuk chapter 2 continues to explore theological themes such as faith, divine judgment, and the ultimate recognition of God's glory. Its influence can be seen in the development of Christian theology, particularly in discussions about faith and justification, as well as in the broader understanding of God's justice and sovereignty.

Habakkuk 3

New International Version

Habakkuk's Prayer

3 A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet. On shigionoth.[a]

2 Lord, I have heard of your fame;
I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord.
Repeat them in our day,
in our time make them known;
in wrath remember mercy.

3 God came from Teman,
the Holy One from Mount Paran.[b]

His glory covered the heavens
and his praise filled the earth.
4 His splendor was like the sunrise;
rays flashed from his hand,
where his power was hidden.
5 Plague went before him;
pestilence followed his steps.
6 He stood, and shook the earth;
he looked, and made the nations tremble.
The ancient mountains crumbled
and the age-old hills collapsed—
but he marches on forever.
7 I saw the tents of Cushan in distress,
the dwellings of Midian in anguish.

8 Were you angry with the rivers, Lord?
Was your wrath against the streams?
Did you rage against the sea
when you rode your horses
and your chariots to victory?

9 You uncovered your bow,
you called for many arrows.
You split the earth with rivers;
10 the mountains saw you and writhed.
Torrents of water swept by;
the deep roared
and lifted its waves on high.

11 Sun and moon stood still in the heavens
at the glint of your flying arrows,
at the lightning of your flashing spear.
12 In wrath you strode through the earth
and in anger you threshed the nations.
13 You came out to deliver your people,
to save your anointed one.
You crushed the leader of the land of wickedness,
you stripped him from head to foot.
14 With his own spear you pierced his head
when his warriors stormed out to scatter us,
gloating as though about to devour
the wretched who were in hiding.
15 You trampled the sea with your horses,
churning the great waters.

16 I heard and my heart pounded,
my lips quivered at the sound;

decay crept into my bones,
and my legs trembled.
Yet I will wait patiently for the day of calamity
to come on the nation invading us.
17 Though the fig tree does not bud
and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails
and the fields produce no food,
though there are no sheep in the pen
and no cattle in the stalls,
18 yet I will rejoice in the Lord,
I will be joyful in God my Savior.

19 The Sovereign Lord is my strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
he enables me to tread on the heights.

For the director of music. On my stringed instruments.

Footnotes

Habakkuk 3:1 Probably a literary or musical term

Habakkuk 3:3 The Hebrew has *Selah* (a word of uncertain meaning) here and at the middle of verse 9 and at the end of verse 13.

Chapter 3 of Habakkuk is a prayer of Habakkuk, in which he expresses his faith in God's power and sovereignty. The prayer is written in the form of a psalm, and it is meant to be sung or recited as a hymn of praise.

In the prayer, Habakkuk acknowledges that God has the power to bring judgment and salvation to the world. He remembers God's past acts of deliverance and asks God to do the same for his people in the present. He acknowledges that God's ways are often mysterious and difficult to understand, but he trusts that God is working out his plan for the world.

Habakkuk also describes a vision of God's glory and power, which inspires awe and fear in him. He recognizes that God is in control of all things, and that his power extends beyond the natural world to the spiritual realm.

The prayer ends with a declaration of faith and hope in God's salvation. Habakkuk expresses his confidence that God will ultimately bring justice to the world and vindicate his people. He promises to trust in God and to wait patiently for his salvation, even in the midst of trials and difficulties.

Overall, chapter 3 of Habakkuk is a powerful expression of faith and trust in God's power and sovereignty, even in the face of difficult circumstances. It encourages readers to persevere in their faith and to trust in God's ultimate plan for the world.

Here are some important verses from chapter 3 of the book of Habakkuk in the Christian Bible, along with a brief explanation and verse reference:

Verse 2: "Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy." - This verse reflects Habakkuk's desire for God to act in a way that displays His power and glory. It also emphasizes the importance of mercy, even in the midst of judgment. (Habakkuk 3:2)

Verse 3: "God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran. His glory covered the heavens and his praise filled the earth." - This verse describes God's majesty and power as He comes to deliver His people. It emphasizes His holiness and the awe-inspiring nature of His presence. (Habakkuk 3:3)

Verse 6: "He stood, and shook the earth; he looked, and made the nations tremble. The ancient mountains crumbled and the age-old hills collapsed - but he marches on forever." - This verse describes God's power to bring about seismic shifts and to bring down even the most established powers. Despite this power, He endures forever. (Habakkuk 3:6)

Verse 17-18: "Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior." - These verses express Habakkuk's faith and trust in God, even in the midst of difficult circumstances. It demonstrates his conviction that true joy and fulfillment come from a relationship with God, not from material possessions or earthly circumstances. (Habakkuk 3:17-18)

Habakkuk chapter 3 is a unique chapter in the book, as it takes the form of a prayer or psalm rather than a dialogue between the prophet Habakkuk and God. This chapter is often referred to as "Habakkuk's Prayer" or "Habakkuk's Psalm." It contains theological thoughts and themes that reflect the prophet's response to God's revelations and his trust in God's sovereignty, even in the face of impending calamity.

Theological Thought in Habakkuk Chapter 3:

The Majesty and Power of God: Habakkuk's prayer in chapter 3 begins with a vivid description of God's majesty and power. He acknowledges God's mighty deeds in history, such as the Exodus, and prays for God to once again display His power to save His people.

Theological Reflection on God's Past Actions: Throughout the chapter, there is a theological reflection on God's past actions on behalf of His people. Habakkuk recalls God's faithfulness and deliverance in history, emphasizing the idea that God is the same God who has acted in the past and can be trusted in the present.

Trusting God in Times of Trouble: Despite the impending invasion and destruction that Habakkuk anticipates, he expresses his trust in God. He affirms his faith that, even in times of trouble, he will rejoice in the Lord and find strength in God.

God's Justice and Mercy: Habakkuk acknowledges that God's judgment is deserved because of the sins of the people. However, he also pleads for God to remember mercy in the midst of judgment. This reflects a theological tension between God's justice and His willingness to show compassion.

Theological Influence:

While Habakkuk chapter 3 is a prayer specific to the historical context of the Babylonian invasion, it contains theological themes and expressions that have influenced Jewish and Christian thought:

Trust in God's Sovereignty: Habakkuk's affirmation of trust in God's sovereignty, even in the face of adversity, has been a source of inspiration for believers throughout history. It reminds readers that even when circumstances seem dire, God can be trusted.

Majestic Portrayal of God: The majestic description of God's power and deeds in this chapter has inspired praise and worship in both Jewish and Christian traditions. It highlights the transcendence and glory of God.

Theological Reflection on God's Actions: Habakkuk's reflection on God's past actions and His faithfulness to His covenant has been a reminder of God's consistency and faithfulness in the lives of believers.

Mercy and Justice: The tension between God's justice and mercy, as seen in Habakkuk's prayer, has influenced discussions on the character of God and His response to human sin. It underscores the biblical teaching that God is just but also willing to show compassion.

In summary, Habakkuk chapter 3 is a prayer that reflects theological thoughts on God's majesty, power, faithfulness, and the tension between justice and mercy. Its influence can be seen in how believers throughout history have drawn upon its themes to express trust in God and to reflect on His character and actions.

Notes:

In the book of Habakkuk, the prophet raises several difficult questions that seem to have no answer, including:

1. Why does God allow evil and injustice to go unpunished? (1:2-4)
2. Why does God use wicked nations to judge His people? (1:12-13)
3. How can a righteous God allow His people to suffer at the hands of their enemies? (1:13)
4. How can God be just and yet show mercy to sinners? (3:2)

These questions have challenged theologians and believers throughout the ages, and there are no easy answers. The book of Habakkuk encourages us to trust in God's sovereignty, even when we don't understand His ways.