

HABAKKUK SERIES #1:
How to Stay Together When the World Falls Apart
Habakkuk 1:1-4
Grace Community Church
Kingston, Tennessee
Sunday, August 18, 2019

1. INTRODUCTION:

- a. We are living in some of the darkest days in American history.
- b. Habakkuk was living in some very dark days of Judah's history.
- c. The book of Habakkuk is a record of the prophet's consternation over the godlessness in the land and God's refusal to intervene.
- d. The book concludes with Habakkuk resting upon the character of God.

2. TEXT: Habakkuk 1:1-4, (1) The burden which the prophet Habakkuk saw. (2) O LORD, how long shall I cry, And You will not hear? Even cry out to You, "Violence!" And You will not save. (3) Why do You show me iniquity, And cause me to see trouble? For plundering and violence are before me; There is strife, and contention arises. (4) Therefore the law is powerless, And justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; Therefore perverse judgment proceeds.

3. INTRODUCTION:

- a. Habakkuk derived comfort in the dark days of his nation's history from leaning upon the character of God (Hab. 2:4, "The just shall live by faith....").
- b. The book of Habakkuk is a dialogue between Jehovah God and the prophet, Habakkuk.
- c. Basically, Habakkuk is a study in the character of God.
- d. We do not know anything about the person of Habakkuk.
- e. Habakkuk's prophetic ministry was different from all the other prophets of old in that he did not minister to a people or nation.
- f. **DATE OF HABAKKUK:** was "probably soon *after* the fall of Nineveh, in 608 B.C. [i.e., before Israel's 70-year captivity in Babylon]."¹
- g. The book of Habakkuk mirrors our time.
- h. Despite Habakkuk's intercession for his nation, God told him that things were only going to get worse.

¹ J. Sidlow Baxter, *Explore the Book*, IV, 208.

4. CHAPTER ONE: HABAKKUK'S BURDEN

- a. Habakkuk is troubled with the moral decadence of his nation and perplexed as to why God would not intervene.
- b. Hab. 1:2, "O LORD, how long shall I cry, And You will not hear? [I] Even cry out to You, "Violence!" And You will not save."²
 - i. The 1st "CRY" means, "to shout with emotion"²
 - ii. The 2nd "CRY" means "to call for help"³
- c. Habakkuk was complaining to God about His seeming indifference toward the moral and spiritual climate of Judah.
- d. In Hab. 1:2-4 Habakkuk listed the evils he saw in his land.
 - i. V. 2, VIOLENCE
 - ii. V. 3:
 - 1. INIQUITY
 - 2. PLUNDERING
 - 3. STRIFE
 - 4. CONTENTION
 - iii. V. 4:
 - 1. Ineffectual governance
 - 2. Perverse legal judgments
 - 3. Predominance of the godless over the godly
- e. In Hab. 1:2, Habakkuk cried out to God for help. But instead of conditions within Judah improving, God allowed them to go from bad to worse.
- f. Habakkuk's description of Judah's plight sounds like the present conditions within America today.
 - i. EXAMPLES of moral and spiritual perversions within America.

² Brown-Driver-Briggs.

³ Brown-Driver-Briggs.

5. CONCLUSION:

- a. We are living in extremely dark days in American history.**
- b. The storm clouds of God's judgment are gathering over our nation.**
- c. Things are going to go from bad to worse.**
- d. Like Habakkuk, by the end of the book, we too must come to a firm reliance upon the character of God, regardless of the divinely allowed perils our nation will face in the future.**