

HABAKKUK

LESSON # 1

Introduction

Welcome to our study of the book of Habakkuk! Whether you've read this book many times, skimmed it and scratched your head, or never read it at all, a closer look at this powerful prophecy is sure to open your eyes to new and wonderful things! As we work our way through the book we'll find that this gem, tucked away in the minor prophets, is surprisingly relevant to our lives today, full of wisdom and courage and light. This week, you will have the opportunity to get to know the book in a very general way. Our primary goal is simply to familiarize ourselves with its basic outline and contents, so that we have some idea of where we'll be going in the weeks to come. Don't worry about the historical references or confusing language; we'll deal with that later. Just enjoy getting to know Habakkuk!

1. Read through Habakkuk from your bible text handout, simply enjoying the book, before you begin answering the questions below. □

Now, using only the text handout of Habakkuk, try to answer the following questions. This is the important step of making observations, marking key words, expressions of time, words or phrases that are being compared or contrasted, promises, etc. Don't rush through this. Be sure to note the Scripture references to show where you found your answer. At this point in the lesson, you may not be able to answer every question using only the text—THIS IS OKAY! You will have an opportunity in a future lesson to come back and complete your answers using other Bible study resources. As you go through this lesson, you will begin to enter "the fog:" you may feel lost, like you can't quite see what is going on. Expect this! You are not supposed to understand it all at this point. Just answer the questions to the best of your ability, and we'll sort it out together!

2. Who wrote the book? What do you learn about the author?

3. To whom is it written? What do you learn about the recipient?

4. When was the book written? Can you discover anything about the historical situation of Habakkuk's time?

5. Where was it written?

6. What is the general tone of the book?

7. What is the author's purpose (or purposes) in writing this book?

8. Who are the main characters in this book?

9. What topics are included in this book?

10. What are the key words of the book? (Key words are words that are repeated or carry an important thought.)

11. What are the main themes of the book? (A theme is a main idea, an overall message.)

12. What attributes or names of God can you find in Habakkuk?

13. The book of Habakkuk is written in the form of a question-and-answer session between Habakkuk and God, and thus is easily divided into five main sections. Go through the book and give a one-sentence summary (who is speaking, what is the question or main point) for each of the sections identified below:

Habakkuk 1:1-4

Habakkuk 1:5-11

Habakkuk 1:12-2:1

Habakkuk 2:2-20

Habakkuk 3:1-19

14. What are you looking forward to learning from Habakkuk?

15. What insights have you gained thus far in your study of Habakkuk?

16. What one or two attributes of God, from question 12, would help your faith to be strengthened and move your heart from trembling to trusting, from fear to faith?

*Open my eyes, that I may behold
Wonderful things from your Law.
~Psalm 119:18*