

OUTLINE AND STUDY GUIDE FOR MINOR PROPHETS—BOOK OF HABAKKUK

I. INTRODUCTION.

- a. Author-Habakkuk—not of Hebrew origin, but means “to embrace”.
- b. Date of writing—612-606 BC. Assyria fell to Babylonians in 612 BC.; first wave of Judah’s exile was 605-606 BC.
- c. Characterization of the book.

II. THREE MAJOR DIVISIONS OF THE BOOK.

- a. Hab. 1:2-11.
 1. Problem Presented. (1:2-4)
 2. Answer from God. (1:5-7)
- b. Hab. 1:12-20.
 1. Problem Presented. (1:12,13)
 2. Answer from God. (2:1-4)
- c. Hab.3:1-19.
 1. A psalm—Prayer for compassion & mercy.

III. TEACHINGS OF THE BOOK OF HABAKKUK.

a. LIVING BY FAITH.

- a. Habakkuk taught “the just shall live by his faith”. (Hab. 2:4)
 1. This verse appears in New Testament 3 times—Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11 and Hebrews 10:37-38.
- b. In Habakkuk, “faith” is “moral steadfastness” while in New Testament, “faith” and “faithfulness” have a broader meaning.
- c. Paul in II Corinthians 5:7 speaks of “walking by faith and not by sight”.

b. UNIVERSAL SUPREMACY OF GOD’S JUDGMENT ON THE WICKED. (Hab. 1:5-7)

- a. The Assyrians are used to punish “God’s people” in the Northern Kingdom. Then Babylon (Chaldeans) is raised up to punish both Assyria and “God’s people” of Judah. Later the Chaldeans are overthrown.
- b. God is still involved in the affairs of the nations. (See Romans 13:1-7)

IV. FIVE “WOES” ARE ISSUED AGAINST CONQUERING NATIONS.

- a. Woe to the nation that plunders. (Hab.2:6-8)
- b. Woe to the nation that is self-indulgent. (Hab. 2:9-11)
- c. Woe to the oppressing nation. (Hab. 2:12-14)
- d. Woe to the nation that reduces others to helplessness. (Hab. 2:15-17)
- e. Woe to the idolatrous nation. (Hab. 2:18-20)

V. PRACTICAL LESSONS OF PERMANENT VALUE.

- a. God can be trusted at all times. (Hab. 3:17-19)
- b. Evil will kill itself.
- c. God can be seen and understood only when we see through “the eye of faith”.
- d. God will deliver the faithful.
- e. The “just shall live by faith”. (Hab. 2:4 and Hebrews chapter 11)
- f. Key verses to recall: (1) Hab2:4, (2) 2:14, and (3) 2:20.