

# 2

## HABAKKUK SESSION 2

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### Read Habakkuk 2: 2-5

#### The Lord replies to his servant's complaint

This takes us to the very heart of the book and of much else besides.

1. Why do you suppose Habakkuk is told to write the revelation plainly and not just speak it?
2. What reason lies behind the references to time and delay?
3. The second half of verse 4 is the outstanding statement of the book. What is it really saying in the immediate context of this passage?
4. The Babylonians are charged with arrogance. What other traits accompany that here?

#### **Faith waiting**

Sometimes we say God should do such and such a thing urgently. It's just obvious to us!

The prophet felt the Babylonian invader was a lot worse than the people of Judah he was going to crush. Surely such a ruthless, godless, arrogant nation ought to receive condign (appropriate & deserved) punishment without delay.

Faith accepts that God is sovereign and knows what he is doing. The hard bit about it is when we cannot understand the why and wherefore of God's ways.

At such times it helps to remember how limited our knowledge is and how narrow our perspective can be.

Sometimes we must wait and wait and wait. That too is the way of faith.

### Think It Over

*The Psalmist (Ps 40: 1) waited patiently for the Lord. Literally, he waited, waited for the Lord. He kept on waiting. A good thing he did, because he goes on to say, "he turned to me and heard my cry." He is saying something like, The Lord gave me his whole attention! Then follows an account of all the wonderful things God did for him. If I need encouragement, I'll find plenty of it in that "Song of Deliverance" .*

### Read Habakkuk 2: 4 The great text

Consider it's use at crucial points in New Testament:

### Romans 1: 17 - The key text of Romans

1. In what way does Paul bring out the meaning of Habakkuk and make it the basis of his argument?
2. The text can be taken as: *The righteous by faith shall live*. Would that make any difference to what Paul establishes?
3. State as simply as you can the truth of Justification by Faith.
4. How relevant is that for people today?

### Galatians 3: 11

1. How is this verse related to Romans 1: 17 in its use of the quotation?

## Hebrews 10: 37-38

1. Is this use any different from the previous ones? Discuss

The quotation in Heb 10 is from the Septuagint, i.e. the Greek translation of the Old Testament, which was in common use in NT times. That is the source of many NT quotations. So when we are reading these verses in Hebrews 10 we are reading a translation of a translation.

You will see that Hebrews not only draws attention to the promised deliverance but also the Deliverer. And so the writer focusses on the Second Coming in his application of Habakkuk to the situation he is facing. True faith holds on and when it holds on resolutely, it may legitimately be called 'faithfulness'.

## Read Habakkuk 2: 6-20

### Woes to the Wicked

#### Five woes make up this "taunt song".

1. What sort of actions bring the judgement of God on people?
2. What should be our attitude to passages about judgement such as this one?
3. What is the essential difference between faith in God and idol-worship?

*If you have time, you may find it helpful to go through the passage at home with the following questions before tackling the 3 discussion points above.*

1. *What particular kinds of wrongdoing are being denounced in verses 6-8?*
2. *What does the prophet see as the end result for the perpetrators?*