

HABAKKUK

〰️ O LORD, HOW LONG? 〰️

Text: Habakkuk 2:2-8

1. Make it Plain and Practical - Habakkuk 2:2-3

God told Habakkuk to record this “question and answer” time for the benefit of others – **that he may run who reads it**. Habakkuk’s revelation wasn’t just for himself, but also to strengthen others.

It is not our job to make the truth of God’s Word hard to understand. God wants the truth of His Word to be plain.

John Wycliffe said, *“The Bible ought to be the common possession of all Christians, and needed to be made available for common use in the language of the people.”*

Habakkuk had to *make it practical* – **that he may run that readeth it**. Those who read it wouldn’t be bogged down trying to figure out what is being said, but they could be free to run because the truth of God’s Word is plain.

The Babylonian conquest would not be evident in his day, but in the future.

2. God will deal with the proud. Habakkuk 2:4-8

Habakkuk wondered why Babylon – a nation even more sinful than Judah – would be used to bring judgment against Judah.

In answering the prophet, God first assured him that He saw **the proud**, and knew that **his soul is not upright in him**.

Pride is everywhere and takes all shapes. Pride can be especially dangerous among the people of God.

But the just shall live by his faith: In contrast to **the proud**, there are **the just**. The principle of their life is **faith**, instead of pride that looks to self. True **faith** looks outside of self unto the LORD God, while pride always looks to self.

This brief statement from the prophet Habakkuk is one of the most important, and most quoted Old Testament statements in the New Testament. Paul used it to show that the **just** live **by faith**, not by law. Being under the law isn't the way to be found **just** before God, only living by faith is.

Every word in Habakkuk 2:4 is important, and the Lord quotes it three times in the New Testament just to bring out the fullness of the meaning

- Romans 1:17 is the commentary on *the justified man* – “The **just** shall live by faith.”
- Hebrews 10:38 is the commentary on *faith* – “The just shall live by **faith**.”
- Galatians 3:11 is the commentary on the Christian *life* – “The just shall **live** by faith.”

God sees the proud man and how the proud man **cannot be satisfied**. The one who is declared just by faith is satisfied, but the proud man keeps grasping.

God assured Habakkuk that He knew how to deal with nations like Babylon. He promised the Babylonians that just as they **plundered many nations**, so one day others would **plunder** them.

The Babylonians were perfect examples of the proud who set themselves against those who are declared just by faith – and Habakkuk could take comfort in the fact that God would deal with them.

“The immediate value of the word was that Habakkuk learned that God’s employment of the Chaldeans did not mean the permanent power of this evil people.”

Can I give you a great promise from God? God will make everything right!

The true is there is information out there right now that I don’t know what to believe.

I do know that God is in control and nothing happens without His almighty, and all-knowing permission! Every single person who has a proud heart and has committed evils against those that live by faith will be judged.



GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Why was it important for Habakkuk to write down this discourse with God?
2. Why should we do our best to keep the truth of God plain?
3. How do you balance deep Bible study verses simple truth “that he may run that readeth it”?
4. Where has your faith been challenged in the current crisis?
5. How do you practically live by faith?