

# A CONVERSATION WITH GOD



## THE BOOK OF HABAKKUK



# BACKGROUND TO HABAKKUK

- ❖ His name means "embrace".
- ❖ The setting of the book is prior to the Babylonian conquest of Judah (1.6).
- ❖ Deuterocanonical books make reference to Daniel and Habakkuk knowing each other.
- ❖ Some Jewish traditions hold that Habakkuk died a few years before the Jewish exiles returned to Jerusalem.

# THE BOOK OF HABAKKUK

- ❖ A conversation between Habakkuk and God.
- ❖ Habakkuk – 1.2-4
- ❖ God – 1.5-11
- ❖ Habakkuk – 1.12-2.1
- ❖ God – 2.2-20
- ❖ Habakkuk – 3.1-19

# HABAKKUK QUESTIONS GOD

## HABAKKUK 1.1-4

- ❖ Habakkuk is perplexed for three reasons:
  - ❖ He cries out to God, but feels he is not heard (1.2).
  - ❖ Wickedness and evil exist in Judah (1.3).
  - ❖ The righteous are mistreated by the wicked (1.4).

# **GOD'S FIRST RESPONSE**

**HABAKKUK 1.5-11**

- ❖ God sets out to respond to Habakkuk's inquest:
- ❖ Habakkuk felt he was not heard (1.2); God now responds to him.
- ❖ Habakkuk's concern about evil in Judah (1.3) was well-founded and would soon be addressed.
- ❖ The suffering of the righteous would not escape the sight of God; He would deal with wicked, both Jewish and otherwise (1.6,11).

# HABAKKUK'S FOLLOW-UP

## HABAKKUK 1.12-2.1

- ❖ Habakkuk is confused by God's response:
  - ❖ He affirms God's power and judgment (1.12).
  - ❖ Habakkuk then expresses his confusion: how can God use ungodly people to judge a nation "more righteous than they" (1.13)?
  - ❖ Habakkuk then waits for God's response (1.14):
    - ❖ He realized God's timing is not our timing.
    - ❖ He realized he missed something – he awaited God's reproof (2.1).

# **GOD ANSWERS HABAKKUK**

## **HABAKKUK 2.2-20**

- ❖ God answers Habakkuk with a firm message (2.2-3).
- ❖ Judgment would come: both on Judah (1.6) and Babylon (1.11; 2.8).
- ❖ Habakkuk's charge against God's judgment was wrong:
  - ❖ God was not indiscriminately judging – the righteous would live (2.4).
  - ❖ Habakkuk was amiss because both nations were wicked (1.3; 2.8)
  - ❖ God was not wrong to use the Babylonians – they, too, would be judged for their wickedness (2.15-17).
- ❖ God's wisdom and sovereignty must be respected (2.20).

# HABAKKUK'S PRAYER

## HABAKKUK 3

- ❖ After the message of coming judgment, Habakkuk prays.
  - ❖ He prays for God to be merciful (3.2).
    - ❖ Indeed, God would be – He would bring home the exiled Jews.
  - ❖ He remembers God's nature and power (3.3-7).
    - ❖ Babylon attacked from the north; Teman is south of Israel.
    - ❖ All stand before God.
  - ❖ He learns to trust God (3.16-19).
    - ❖ God heard Habakkuk – and Habakkuk heard God.
    - ❖ The people of faith would live (2.4).