



HABAKKUK 1

A STUDY THROUGH THE BOOK OF HABAKKUK

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Habakkuk, The Man

One of 12 minor prophets.

Name means to “embrace” or “wrestle.”

Other prophets spoke to the people on behalf of God.

Habakkuk speaks to God on behalf of the people.

Likely lived during the time of godly king Josiah (640 to 609 B.C.)

Little else is known about Habakkuk, the man.

Popular Verses from Habakkuk

- **Habakkuk 1:2**

“How long, O LORD, will I call for help,
And You will not hear? I cry out to You,
"Violence!" Yet You do not save.”

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- **Habakkuk 1:2**

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- **Habakkuk 2:2**

“And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make *it* plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.”

- **Habakkuk 2:4**
- Behold, his soul *which* is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

- **Habakkuk 2:20**

“But the LORD *is* in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.”

- **Habakkuk 3:17**

“Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither *shall* fruit *be* in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and *there shall be* no herd in the stalls:”

- **Habakkuk 3:18**

“Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.”

- **Habakkuk 2:2**
- And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make *it* plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

Habakkuk

Chapters 1 and 2

- Wrestling with God in misery
- Contending with frustrations
- Complaining
- Requesting God's Justice
- Pouting

Chapters 3

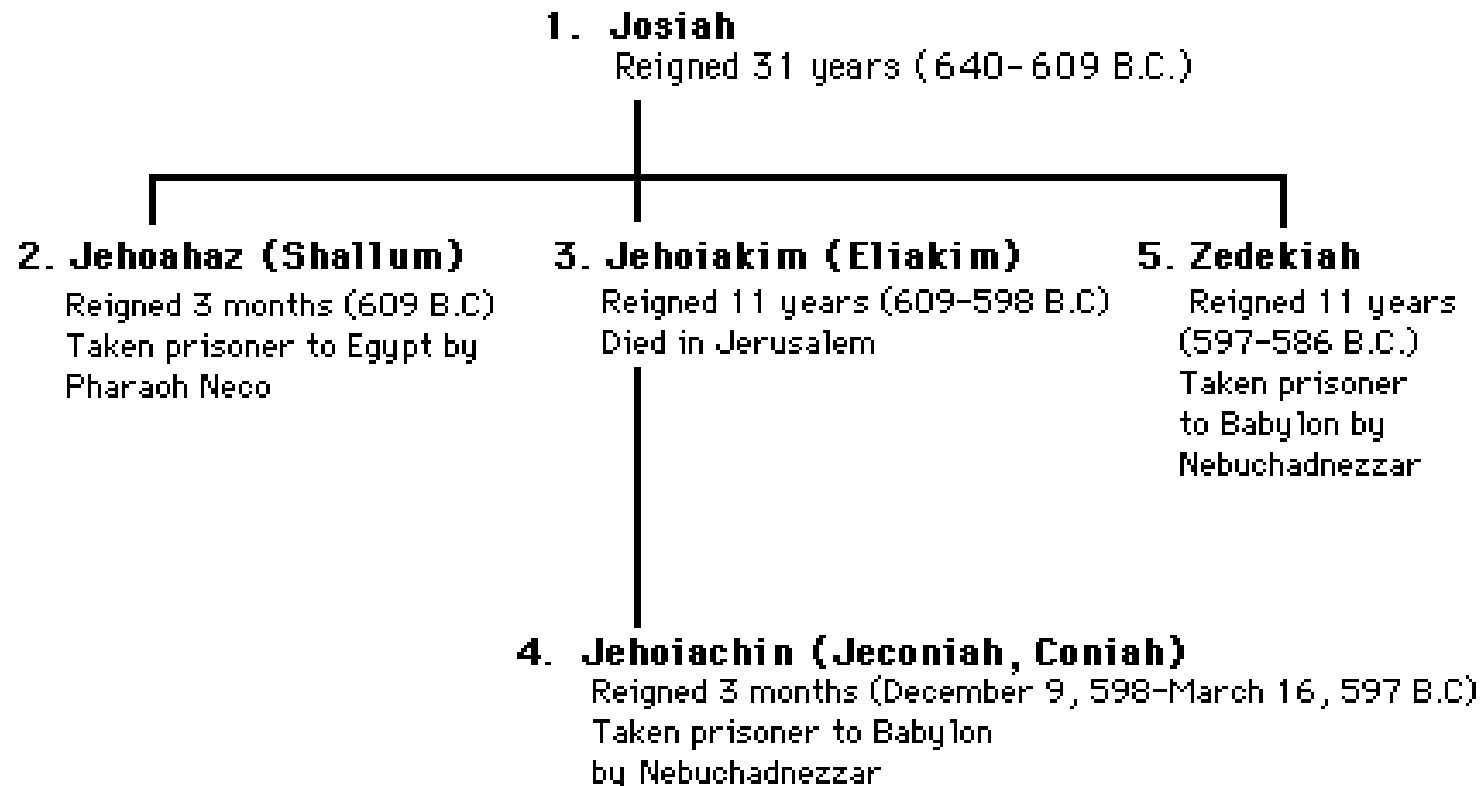
- Resting in God's mercy
- Committed to faithfulness
- Celebrating
- Receiving God's Mercy
- Praising

Habakkuk, The Misery

After the reign of Josiah between 640 and 608 BC, the nation of Judah endured 23 years of national decline.

Habakkuk had lived through a period of national revival under Josiah. Subsequent kings were wicked and caused the nation to continually decline.

The Last Five Kings of Judah



2 Kings 23:24-25 King James Version (KJV)

²⁴ Moreover the workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD.

²⁵ And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him.

Why does God Permit injustice and allow oppression

V. 1

“The burden which Habakkuk the prophet did see.”

Habakkuk had obviously been exposed to the prophecies of Zephaniah. Zephaniah had prophesied the destruction of Judah at the hands of the Chaldeans who were a people who lived in southern Babylonia. Sometimes the term *Chaldeans* is used to refer to Babylonians in general, but normally it refers to a specific semi-nomadic tribe that lived in the southern part of Babylon. Habakkuk was burdened by the present conditions since King Josiah and the prophecy that things were going to get worse.

Habakkuk pleads for justice and charges God with taking too long and doing too little.

v.2 “O Lord, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! even cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save!”

v.3 “Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance? for spoiling and violence are before me: and there are that raise up strife and contention.”

v.4 “Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.”

God's response

v.5 “Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvelously: for I will work a work in your days which ye will not believe, though it be told you.”

God informs Habakkuk that He will raise up the Babylonians.

Verses 6-11

Habakkuk refused to believe that God would do such a thing. In verses 12 through 17 and chapter 2, verse, he tells God that the punishment does not fit the crime. He in essence tells God that what He is about to do is too much for the people to endure and he does not believe that God will do it. Thus, he argues with God and says that “I will stand upon my watch, and set upon the tower, and will watch to see what He will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reprovèd.”

God responds to Habakkuk's disbelief and tells him not to sit and watch. Instead, write the vision, give the warning, so that those who read it may run. "I will do as I said". However, verse 4 provides the long awaited promise and assurance.....The Just Shall Live By Faith.