

INTRODUCTION

1. Isa 33:5-6 *He shall be the stability of your times* [Tit 2:12-13].
2. Review "Habakkuk's Perspective". Asks *How Long?* & *Why?* Read Hab in union w/ Jesus [2 C 1:20]. Hab is a believer - Hab 2:4. Preview.

1st: Habakkuk Prays to YHWH

1. The Babylonians have now invaded. Hab persists in prayer.
2. Hab argues w/ the Lord on basis of Lord's own character - v12
 - i. YHWH is eternal - *from everlasting*:
 - ii. YHWH is YHWH, *the Lord*
 - iii. YHWH is the *Holy One*
 - iv. YHWH the *Rock*
 - v. YHWH is Hab's God - *my God, my Holy One*. [Ps 22:1]
3. See the practical value of theology. As Image of God, our lives are a reflection of the god we serve. Babs serve military strength [1:11]. Hab wrestles w/ Lord - [Gn 32:26ff Jacob - *Israel*: "God prevails."]
 - i. Hab believes God over against his feelings & situation.
 - ii. How is this triumph of faith expressed? In prayer.

2nd: Habakkuk Continues to Ask His Perplexing Questions

1. Hab believes the Lord who conquers death: *we will not die* [12].
2. Still asking *why & how long* - v12d-17
 - i. YHWH is using Bab *to correct* - rod of discipline.
 - ii. v13 - *why* (2x). Horrific: captives strung together on hooks like fish.
 - 1iii. Hab tells YHWH that Babs worship military prowess (v16).
 - iv. How long? *Continually* [v17]?
3. v12c: *we will not die*. A whisper of hope. The righteous live by faith.
 - i. The faith of Abraham; the faith of Joseph; faith of the prophets.

- ii. In 11:25-26 *He who believes in Me will live even if he dies & everyone who live & believes in Me will never die*.
- iii. Like Jesus standing in cemetery, Hab stands in midst of death & says *we will live*. *Do you believe this? The righteous will live by faith*.

Applic #1: Habakkuk Encourages Our Personal Knowledge of God

1. 1:12a-b - Hab not settle for knowledge of theology: *my God, my Holy One*.
2. How can the Lord be the stability of your times? We must know Him - Jer 31:34. How? in Jesus, the enthroned Lamb [Hab 2:20].

Applic #2: Habakkuk Encourages Us To Persevere In Prayer

1. 3:1-2 - Hab stops arguing & submits to Word of God re: invading Babs [chpts 1-2] -> prayer of chpt 3.
 - i. *I fear* - cld => I'm scared; => reverent humility of worship.
 - ii. *The report about You* in Heb cld = *Thy work* - 1:5 *I am doing smthg* - working a work (same vocab in 3:2). Hab rec's Ld's rev of His plans.
 - iii. *Shigionoth* = highly emotional, but structured hymn
2. Hab lives *in the midst of the yrs* (2x chiastic) = *the day of distress* (3:16).
 - i. *in midst of yrs* = the time in middle, tw/ 2 acts of judgment: on Judah then on Bab.
 - ii. This time = *in wrath*. R 1:18 = time tw/ Christ's 1st & 2nd comings. We too live *in the midst of the yrs*. Note R 1:16-17 cites Hab 2:4.
3. What should we do? What did Hab do? Hab 3:1-2.
 - i. Petition #1: Revive Your work in & for us.
 - ii. Petition #2: Reveal understanding to us: give us discernment.
 - iii. Petition #3: Remember to be merciful. [Exo34:6-7]. *In wrath remember mercy*.
 - a. We live in times of forgetfulness.
 - b. Let us know that the Lord remembers us in mercy & let us *do this in remembrance of Him*.