

YHWH'S WORD TO HABAKKUK

060720A

INTRODUCTION

1. Context: racism; abuse of authority [Vth]; lawless violence. Jms 3:17-18
2. Relevance of Habakkuk - Babylonian invasion - late 600's BC

1st: Habakkuk's Perplexing Questions

1. 1:1-3a injustice: *violence* [5x in Hab]; *iniquity, wickedness*
2. *How long? Why?*
3. Apostate society - 1:3b-4

2nd: YHWH's Provocative Answer

1. v5 - Lord ans's *how long? Doing smthg in your days* - "already". *You:* plural = people in temple hearing what prophet will tell them
2. v6-11a Bab is coming to invade. Terrifying. YHWH sending Bab!?
3. v11b - necessity of justice: *Why?* is there purpose; reason? If Judah is disciplined, Bab will be judged for idolatry: *they will be held guilty*

3rd: Habakkuk's Persistent Entreaty

1. Habakkuk continues to entreat YHWH - v12. 5 descriptions of YHWH & assertion of faith: *we will not die*.
2. v12e-17 *Why?* [v13]. *v12 to correct*. How long? *v17 continual?*
3. He persists in prayer - 2:1 - risks more discipline: ready to reply!

4th: YHWH's Provision for Habakkuk: His Word

1. 2:2-3 *how long?* Hab given *vision* = content of Hab 2&3. *recorded & inscribed* s.t. *the one who reads may run*: obey & proclaim. God's simple answer to Hab's complex questions: God speaks & man obeys.
2. How long? *appt'd time wh/ is hastening to the goal*:
 - i. Do we trust Lord as confessed in 2:12-13a?
 - ii. *Vision* re: future is certain: *it will not fail*.

- iii. How long? *Tho it tarries - wait for it. It will certainly come, it will not delay* - the time is appt'd - comes right on time.
 - a. Septuagint: *HE who is coming will come & will not delay* [Hb 11:35] = 2nd coming.
 - b. Waiting is active: *read & run*.
3. Why? 2:4-5 *Behold*: Lord sees - Read & sing v6: 5 *taunt-songs* - poetic prophetic denunciations of impending judgment; Lex Talionis
 - i. v6-8 woe to the greedy
 - ii. v9-11 woe to the dynasty-builders
 - iii. v12-14 woe to the violent
 - iv. v15-17 woe to sensually debauched
 - v. v18-20 woe to idolaters - HWH is living God enthroned in temple
 - vi. Isa's woes (Isa 5); Jesus' (Mt 23) & woe on Bab in Rv 18. Why? Lex Talionis - law of righteous retribution.
 4. How Long? Long enough for appt'd time to arrive. What will happen then? 3:13a Lord warrior King to save & defeat enemies. But Babs are still coming - 3:16b
 - i. How Long? Lord is already at work - history has appt'd goal.
 - ii. Why? Settle conscience in character of YHWH: enthroned .
 5. Who will receive these answers to perplexing questions? 2:4c
 6. Will you hear? Will you *read & run?* Look to the enthroned Lord.
 - i. Hb 8:1 Jesus is Priest & King - Hb 7:25-26
 - ii. *The righteous shall live by faith* . Where are you depicted in Habakkuk? 2:2-4 AMEN