

A Visitor's Guide to the Old Testament

A Quick Discussion Guide on the Book of Habakkuk

1. Habakkuk, likely on the heels of King Josiah's reformation, is filled with "righteous indignation" that the people of Judah have not, neither in numbers nor in heart, engaged the restoration to God's ways that Habakkuk had expected. The prophet understands what the general rebellious/sinful character of "God's Chosen People" does to the name/reputation of God in the world. This is Habakkuk's first complaint, "Why do you tolerate wrong?" He is concerned about God's glory in the world!

What are things that occur among professing Christians today that have the potential to damage God's reputation?

In what ways is it difficult for the church to navigate standing firm on God's righteousness while also maintaining an emphasis on God's mercy?

2. React to the following statement: There is no retreat [in Habakkuk] to a fuzzy concept of love that robs God of his holiness and leaves him the emasculated image honored by the wishful thinkers of all ages.
3. God indicates to Habakkuk that God's solution for Judah's rebellion is something Habakkuk would never have thought of. Tell of a time in your life in which God worked in a way that you would never have thought of!
4. In chapter 2, God reveals why even the success of the wicked can never tarnish the glory of God in a series of FIVE woes (2:4,5; 2:6-8; 2:9-11; 2:12-14; 2:15-17). Below is heading for each of those five woes. Discuss how the wicked, in the end, do not thrive and God is vindicated:

Dissatisfaction (2:4,5)

Repayment (2:6-8)

No security (2:9-11)

Material things decay (2:12-14)

Repayment in kind (2:15-17)
5. What distinguishes Habakkuk from the other "Minor Prophets"?
6. Write your memory passage below: