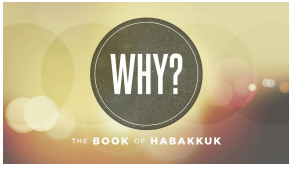


Calvary Lutheran Church

Dallas, TX

Bible Study **Fall 2023**

Vicar Buok Chuol
Pastor John M. Koelpin



Lesson One – Introduction to the Book of the Prophet Habakkuk

Hook

Talk about a circumstance in your life or in the life of someone you know in which you spoke out loud or felt in your heart like asking God, “why”?

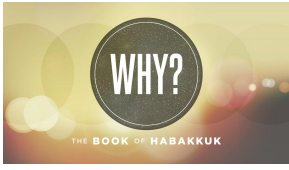
- What was it about the circumstance that motivated the “why” question?
- What answer were you hoping for?
- What if the answer wasn’t what you were expecting?

Asking “why” puts you in some good company...

- Moses asked, “Why have you dealt ill with your servant?” Numbers 11:11
- David asked, “Oh Lord why do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?” Psalm 10:1
- Job asked, “Why have you made me your target?” Job 7:20
- The disciples asked, “Why was this man born blind?” John 9:2
- Jesus on the cross asked God “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Matthew 27:46
- Habbakuk asked, “Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?” Habbakuk 1:3

“Why” is the question around which the Book of the Prophet Habakkuk centers... and the answers he receives may not be what you expect!

While we investigate our present life with only the blurry glasses of our limited understanding (1 Corinthians 13:12), God, through the prophet Habakkuk, will teach us to “live by faith” in the One who created and still controls all (and each) history for his good purposes.



Book

Let's take in the message of the prophet Habakkuk before we take a closer look at the context of this important volume.

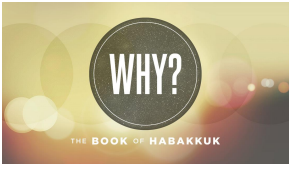
Free audio versions of the Bible are available on www.BibleGateway.com. Below is a sampling of versions offered:

- CCB by Biblica
- CSB by Jon Mohr
- ESV by Max McLean
- ESV (New Testament) by Marquis Laughlin
- ESV by David Cochran Heath
- HCSB by Dale McConachie
- KJV by Max McLean
- KJV by Paul Mims
- KJV by Dramatized
- NASB by Dale McConachie
- NASB1995 by Dale McConachie
- NIV by Max McLean
- NIV by Dramatized
- NIV by George W. Sarris
- NLT by Breathe

The version we will be listening to is the NIV narrated by George W. Sarris:

- ✓ <https://www.biblegateway.com/audio/purevoice/niv/Hab.1>
- ✓ <https://www.biblegateway.com/audio/purevoice/niv/Hab.2>
- ✓ <https://www.biblegateway.com/audio/purevoice/niv/Hab.3>

As you listen, jot down any thoughts, insights, or questions you have in this initial reading/hearing of the text:



Look

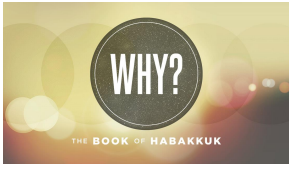
WHO

WHAT

WHERE

WHEN

WHY



Took

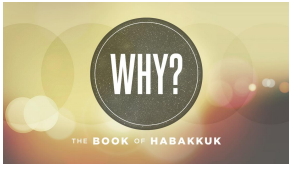
A. Habakkuk is a short book, long on literary richness:

1. Woe/Lament:
2. Epic poetry:
3. P_____ (1:9; 2:6)
4. S_____ or M_____ (1:8,9,11,14-17; 2:5,7,8,15,16; 3:4,8-10,11,14,19)
5. A_____ (2:15-16)
6. M_____ (2:5; 3:2,9)
7. H_____ (1:15)
8. H_____ (1:6-11; 3:6,11)
9. P_____ (1:7-11; 2:5,11; 3:1,5,7,10)
10. R_____ Q_____ (1:12; 2:13,18; 3:8)
11. R_____ for E_____ (1:15b-17)
12. S_____ (3:7)
13. P_____ (3:8; 3:2)
14. C_____ (1:2,3,4; 2:1,6,9,14,16; 3:3)

B. Context is important... prove it!

C. Draw out some applications:

1. What can you make of the fact that Habakkuk “questions” God and it is recorded in Scripture?
2. In what way(s) can you feel a kinship with Habakkuk? What comfort does this give you?
3. “The just shall live by faith” (2:4) is a central verse in Habakkuk. Why do you think it is quoted 3 times in the New Testament?



D. An Outline

Superscription (1:1)

I. The Prophet's Perplexities and God's Explanations (1:2-2:20)

- A. First Perplexity: How Can God Disregard Judah's Sin? (1:2-4)
- B. First Explanation: God Will Judge Judah Through the Chaldeans (1:5-11)
- C. Second Perplexity: How Can God Employ the Wicked Chaldeans? (1:12-2:1)
- D. Second Explanation: God Controls All Nations According to His Purposes (2:2-20)
 - 1. Preliminary instructions (2:2-3)
 - 2. Guiding principles (2:4)
 - 3. Specific applications (2:5-20)
 - a. The case of the Chaldeans (2:5)
 - b. The first woe: The plundering Chaldean will be despoiled (2:6-8)
 - c. The second woe: The plotting Chaldean will be denounced (2:9-11)
 - d. The third woe: The pillaging Chaldean will be destroyed (2:12-14)
 - e. The fourth woe: The perverting Chaldean will be disgraced (2:15-17)
 - f. The fifth woe: The polytheistic Chaldean will be deserted by his idols (2:18-20)

II. The Prophet's Prayer and God's Exaltation (3:1-19)

- A. The Prophet's Prayer for the Redeemer's Pity (3:1-2)
- B. The Prophet's Praise of the Redeemer's Person (3:3-15)
 - 1. The Redeemer's coming (3:3-7)
 - a. His appearance (3:3-4)
 - b. His actions (3:5-7)
 - 2. The Redeemer's conquest (3:8-15)
 - a. His power as seen at the waters (3:8-9b)
 - b. His power as seen in the natural world (3:9c-11)
 - c. His power as seen by the enemy (3:12-15)
- C. The Prophet's Pledge to the Redeemer's Purposes (3:16-19)
 - 1. A statement of the prophet's trust in the Redeemer (3:16-18)
 - 2. A concluding note of praise to the Redeemer (3:19)