

HABAKKUK

AN OVERVIEW

Purpose

To show that Yahweh is still in total control of the world despite the apparent triumph of evil.

Author

Habakkuk.

Date

Written between 612-589 BC.

Audience

The people of Judah and God's people everywhere.

Setting

Babylon was becoming the dominate world power and their destructive force would soon ravage Judah.

Special Features

The first two chapters fall into the dramatic format of dialogue; more specifically, they are question-and-answer exchanges between the prophet and God. The Habakkuk's vision of God's appearance is a theophany, and it is followed by a personal testimony. Overall, the first-person format of the dialogue, the visionary theophany, and the testimony make the book read like a personal journal.



Key Verses

"O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you 'Violence!' And you will not save?" (1:2 ESV)

"Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it. For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay." (2:2-3 ESV)

"LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, LORD. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy." (3:2 NIV)

Key People

Habakkuk, the Babylonians.

Key Place

Judah.