

Hope In Habakkuk

Intro: Over the next four weeks, we will be having some special Bible Studies involving the Old Testament book of Habakkuk. The themes that are presented in this Minor Prophet writing are shared by all who struggle from time-to-time with understanding our existence on planet Earth. Today, we look at 4 ideas that will help us in our study.

1. Meditation

- A. Habakkuk had obviously been thinking a lot about his life and that of others.
- B. What does it mean to “meditate”? How often do we do it?
- C. Focus specifically on his “how long” question seen in 1:2-4.
- D. Paul told Timothy it was essential to his “growth” (1 Timothy 4:15).
- E. Notice the concepts he considered in chapter 3 and its effect on him.

2. Discussion

- A. Habakkuk raised his questions. Importantly, he was open to answers.
- B. As a prophet of old, his interaction with God was direct.
- C. Prayer is an important way to get out the questions.
- D. Looking for the answers in scripture is the surest way to get the right answer.
- E. Discussion will often create more meditation. (see 3:16)..
- F. Don't you think we need to learn to talk more with one another about spiritual matters and/or things of more depth, than our personal interests.

3. Prayer

- A. Chapter 3 contains a prayer that was read on Pentecost in the synagogue.
- B. This prayer represented the results of his meditation and discussion.
- C. In the prayer, he acknowledges God's place in the universe (3:3-7) as well as his grasp of why God was acting as he explained in chapter 1 (3:12-14).
- D. After meditation, discussion and prayer he accepts the truth (3:16).

4. Worship

- A. 3:17-19 - What a declaration of faith!
- B. I will accept whatever your work through nature demonstrates.
- C. I will rejoice because it all leads to salvation.
- D. I will move with power through my life because the Lord is my strength.

Conclusion: The words from the LORD to Habakkuk, “Behold the proud. His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by faith” (2:4) brought Habakkuk to a place where he knew at the end of the day, that amidst all his internal conflict, he must learn to trust God. I've never seen that take any faithful Christian to a place where he could no longer go on with life in the Lord. Let's keep it going and embrace the hope of Habakkuk.