**Habakkuk**

**Keep the Faith**

**What you need to REMEMBER:**

The world was formed by a benevolent, personal Creator who imbued all of creation with life and goodness. However, God’s perfect world became infected by a malicious influence that affects every aspect of our existence down to the cellular level. As a result, the world is a mixed-up place. It’s a strange brew of Goodness goofed up by Evil, Life limited by Death, Beauty paired with Horror, Kindness in the midst of Hatred and Violence aHa. And, there are clearly times when it seems like the life-sucking side of the world is winning out over the lifegiving side. During those times it can seem as though God is not really in charge, or that He is uncaring or unconcerned toward those He claims to love.

**What you need to KNOW:**

Habakkuk lived during such a time. As he witnessed the moral disintegration and sensed the impending doom of the Southern Kingdom of Judah, it made him wonder if God was unresponsive or unfair. All we know about the Habakkuk is what we can discern from the short prophetic book that bears his name.

We know that Habakkuk was filled with questions. He wondered why it seemed that the wicked habitually triumphed over the righteous. He wanted to know why the Lord didn’t rise up and immediately answer the prayers of the righteous by correcting all that was wrong in the world. As such, this book is a bit unique in that his prophesies are not God’s word spoken directly to the people, but rather a dialogue Habakkuk had with the Lord about the condition of the people and the destiny of the nation and its adversaries. However, it’s from this conversation that important truths are communicated to people of faith.

The big idea of that emerges from Habakkuk’s interchange with the Lord is that no matter how things seem in the short-term, ***“the righteous will live by faith” (2:4)***. That, while it might seem that God is unresponsive and allows injustice to prevail, in the end, it will be proven to be not so. God will fulfill His promises to the faithful. As such, the message of Habakkuk is a kind of pep-talk to people faith, telling them to hang in there because “God’s got this!”

Years later, the core message of this prophesy – ***“the righteous will live by faith” (2:4)*** – is sighted by the Apostle Paul in ***Romans 1:17*** and ***Galatians 3:11-12*** as support for the truth that we earn right-standing with God by simply placing our trust in Him. The writer of the book of Hebrews also cites ***Habakkuk 2:3-4*** when he cheers on the faith to persevere ***“For in just a little while, the Coming One will come and not delay. And my righteous ones will live by faith. But I will take no pleasure in anyone who turns away” (Hebrews 10:37-38).***

**GET GOING!**

**Take a leisurely stroll through this interesting three-chapter book.**