

## I. Background

### A. Josiah's Reign

1. Revelation of the goodness of God
  - a. Because of the sin of Manasseh, judgment would come
  - b. God raises up a godly man as king
  - c. God gives a chance for individuals to repent
2. Josiah is prosperous because of:
  - a. Personal godliness
  - b. The turnover in dominant world powers
    - (1) Assyria is in rapid decline
    - (2) Babylonians are on the rise
3. Josiah's reforms brought outward return to God but plenty of sin remained

## II. Habakkuk

- A. Probably spoke in the time between 610 and 614 BC
  1. He had heard of the exploits of the Babylonians
- B. The message of Habakkuk is not presented as sermons but as a personal testimony
- C. Outline
  1. A Question ----- Ch. 1
  2. An Answer ----- Ch. 2
  3. A Prayer ----- Ch. 3

D. There are two questions:

1. Why do I pray for you to deal with sin in the nation and you do not answer?
  - a. Answer to Habakkuk: *I am answering - the Chaldeans are coming*
  - b. The answer does not calm Habakkuk's concerns but raises a second question
2. How can you righteously judge a backslidden people through a completely ungodly people?
  - a. God's first answer: *You heard right - Babylon will be used to judge Israel*
  - b. *You are wrong in your concept of justice*
    - (1) You are looking at things on the basis of relative righteousness
    - (2) The issue is not righteousness and unrighteousness but faith and pride
  - c. Key verse: Habakkuk 2:4
    - (1) The **proud** are not right in their soul
    - (2) The righteous will live by his **faith**
  - d. This becomes one of the key verses for understanding faith in the NT
    - (1) Romans: **Have life** by faith
    - (2) Galatians: Have life by **faith**
    - (3) Hebrews: **Live continually** by faith

*"Behold, as for the proud one,  
His soul is not right within him;  
But the righteous will live by his  
faith."*

~ Habakkuk 2:4