

Is God Just?

Habakkuk 2:1-20*

Charles Dickens wrote, "... there is nothing so finely perceived and so finely felt as injustice." With so much injustice surrounding us, the question zeros in on God's character. Is God truly just? In Habakkuk's day he was seeking assurance that God's justice prevails in an unjust world.

One of the first things God told Habakkuk is that He would deal with the Babylonians because of their pride. In their arrogance they were "not upright." They trusted in themselves, not God. Their puffed-up hearts stood in stunning contrast to the righteous, who live by faith (v. 4). This verse, easily overlooked in this seldom-read Old Testament book, is so significant that the last sentence is quoted three times in the New Testament—in Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; and Hebrews 10:38.

God's admonition —watch, write, & wait (1-3)

God's appraisal —the unrighteous & the righteous (4-5)

God's accusation —the five "Woes" (6-20)

1. (6-8) Woe for intimidation.
2. (9-11) Woe for intemperance.
3. (12-14) Woe for iniquity.
4. (15-17) Woe for indignity.
5. (18-20) Woe for idolatry.¹

Habakkuk

Focus	Dialogue with God Chapter 1	Denunciation by God Chapter 2	Devotion to God Chapter 3
Divisions	1:1—1:4 Distress 1:5—1:11 Disclosure 1:12—1:17 Dilemma	2:1 Anticipation 2:2—2:5 Admonition 2:6—2:20 Annotation	3:1—3:2 Prayer 3:3—3:15 Presence 3:16—3:19 Peace
Topics	Faith Troubled		Faith Triumphant
	What God is Doing		Who God Is
Place	Nation of Judah		
Time	c. 607 B.C.		
Movement	Worry →		Worship
Key Verse	"The Just Shall Live By Faith" 2:4		

*These notes are prayerfully prepared to aid, not replace, your personal study of God's Word.

¹ Five 'woes' adapted from J. Ronald Blue, "Habakkuk," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 1512.