

Is God There?

Habakkuk 3:1-19*

Habakkuk began his book by asking God why he was so slow in answering his prayer for revival in Israel. Then when God did answer, he said he was going to send the Babylonians to punish his people Israel. This was not the answer Habakkuk wanted, and he asked God how he could do such a thing. How could he use a wicked people to punish those more righteous than themselves? These questions were asked in chapter one. God's answer came in chapter two, summarized in verse four: "See, he is puffed up; his desires are not upright—but the righteous will live by his faith." In the remainder of chapter two God describes how the one who is "puffed up" will be brought low. The Babylonians will themselves be punished. In the meantime, the one who knows God will live by faith in God. Times may be bad. The future may become worse. But the righteous will live by faith in him who alone is worthy of that faith.

Chapter two, which contains this revelation, ends by saying: "The LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him" (v.20). It is an appropriate and solemn ending. All that remains is for Habakkuk to worship this God and lay his petitions before him.²

Requesting God's mercy (1-2)

Recalling God's might (3-15)

Rejoicing in God's majesty (16-19)

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.

² James Montgomery Boice, *The Minor Prophets: An Expository Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2002), 417-418.