

**June 18<sup>th</sup> 2006: O.T. Review: Habakkuk 1:1-2:1**

**We have been following OT some months**...1 thing noticed...every book is so unique  
This is esp so.....Habakkuk

**With this book we are taken into the Prophet's personal prayer room**

And there we ears-drop.....on a conversation between Habakkuk and God.

And I for one....am so glad that we have this opportunity to do so !!!!!

*You see....I remember as a young pastor.....having a real problem at times  
With the questions that some people felt I should have the answer.....Because I Pastor  
And deep down inside.....sense of failure....Because I too felt..should*

*( A young child dies in a road accident.....How come a loving God can let.....  
If God is so just...then how come so much injustice happens....*

*Or a professing Christian.....seems so pure and holy in church.....but ugly in  
business  
.....without God seeming to care or miss a beat...)*

*And at times.....I felt that I was there to defend God.....and yet ....  
making such a pathetic job of it*

- **This is where the book of Hab.....became such a help to me**

For Habakkuk was in a sense a Prophet/Pastor

**Godly people would come to Him.....as God's agent.....with the same type of ?'s**

**And it seems that he too.....felt he had no solid answers to give**

**SO he went directly to God**....with a Pauline Hanson(Please Explain)..type of approach

**Then he wrote down his own personal dialogue with God.....**

.....for our teaching/encouragement

**Turn to chapter 1.....**

In my Bible I have headings..... v2—4 →Habakkuk's complaint

v5—11 →The Lord's answer.....12—2:1 →Habakkuk's second complaint

**You see when Hab first approached God.....He only had one..please explain ?  
He wanted God to explain...why He had done nothing about the wickedness amongst  
...His people...in Judah**

**For there was a minority.....who were sincerely faithful....godly people  
Who sought to live blameless.....and to worship God in purity of heart**

**While all around**

...were Jews who were treating God as dirt..... His rules...  
as restrictions on their behaviour.....that they could safely ignore

**And it was the ungodly.....seemed to have the best deal in life  
While the godly.....were suffering**

**And the godly couldn't understand.....And Hab wasn't sure that he could either  
So in v2—4 he prays.....**

- **Then God answers.....but the answer He gave was so different to what Hab expected**

**For God's reply was.....But I am doing something  
I have lined up this extra evil nation....Babylon....a feared and dreaded people  
Whose horses are...v8-11**

**They will come and give Judah heaps....**

**That wasn't what Hab wanted to hear !!!!!**

Can you imagine how Hab feeling about now ????

(Perhaps he was feeling a little bit like how you would feel.....if one morning woke  
..to a terrible smell .....Wished you never mentioned.....Is there a less drastic way  
of dealing with the problem ?)

**Hab possibly reacted rather like that.....  
Because in v12 he speaks to God again.....A Second complaint...?  
and he says 1:12—13....**

**Then in v14 onwards.....He accuses God of making his people like fish.....**  
w/out anyone to look after them....and Babylon like a cruel and destructive fisherman  
...just catches them in his net and destroys them along with other nations

**In v17 he cries out→v17.....**

**Hab can't understand...how a God who calls Himself holy and just**  
...could use such a wicked nation.....to inflict punishment.....on a nation...  
by comparison spotless...and he is not slow about telling God this

- **Then...after giving Almighty God such a serve.....2:1 has Hab saying.....**

The interesting thing about that verse.....is the alternative reading...margin...last part  
*I will look to see what He will say to me, and what to answer when I am rebuked.*

**It's a reading that suggests....that Hab was thinking that he had said too much  
Gone to far.....Was out of line in daring to so accuse God**

- **But God is so gracious**

He doesn't rebuke Hab.....doesn't get cross.....And He doesn't rebuke us either  
When we come to Him with our complaints....our questions.

**He lets Habakkuk know:**

- That the Wicked Nation of Babylon will just be an instrument  
And that the time will come....when they will be destroyed
- In contrast that minority.....of God's people who remain faithful....will  
survive.....And the time will come when---as 2:14 says→ .....

**And above all else...God declares to his faithful servant in 2:20.....**

**But the key thing that the Lord says to Habakkuk is found in 2:4**  
**“But the righteous will live by his faith”**

**IN NT terms...Righteous are those...enjoy a relationship with God as...children...  
Who are right in God's sight.....not because we don't sin...but because.....**

- **As such...will not always understand what God is doing....**  
in our lives...lives of others...world
- **There will be times when we hurt badly**  
When we may even tell God..... we can't take any more.....  
**Evil sin** and sickness frustrates.....**Yet** we will survive as God's children

**How?**.....Because of the Faith He has placed in our hearts.....  
**Faith not in ourselves**.....our religiousness.....our understanding.....  
**But in Him**.....Almighty God

**What a truly wonderful gift....this faith in God..... is !!!**

*(Picked up this book...Joy and CS Lewis.....Joy Davidman....p125....  
.....last words: I am at peace with God.....)*

- **Habakkuk heard those words about the Righteous living by his faith**  
And He knew they were true

**That his confidence in God**.....was not based on what was happening around  
Be that good or bad.....**But** was based on who God is.....  
**A God who in every way**.....had proved Himself worthy of trust...glory..praise

- **So in 3:2 he says.....**  
And from there he talks about how God had been with His people in the past  
**How He had made** a passage through the red sea....and delivered His people with power

**He looked to what** God had done in the past.....and knew He could trust Him 4 future  
**Whatever pain**.....whatever loss.....in earthly terms.....He had to face and endure

- **He still doesn't like what will happen to Judah.....3:16 says.....**  
**But because he has deep in his heart....this faith in God.....**  
**He goes on to say:::16b—19..**

- **What a lesson this is for us.....Because we will go through trials too**  
Hurts will come.....difficulties will arise.....Things we can't understand....will happen  
But we too look to a God.....who has done great and mighty things  
Who has worked in our past.....proving His power...His love

**Perhaps Paul was thinking of Habakkuk's words.....**  
when he wrote in Rom 8:31-32...

**God has already proven His love for us on a cross**  
**So we can now Know.....that whatever we pass thro in life.....in death**

**We can have Faith in Him...to keep us.....and work out to completion**  
His perfect and wonderful plan for us.....Eternal

*(Perhaps you are thinking.....but my faith is weak.....*  
*Ice skating.....thickness of the ice.....Look to God...he is unable to fail you)*