

Habakkuk 2:2-20

Study Guide

1. Read Habakkuk 2:2-20 (2-5, , 6-8, 9-11, 12-14, 15-17, 18-20). God instructed Habakkuk to prepare to receive a vision (Habakkuk 2:2). What did God tell Habakkuk to do to preserve the message and communicate it to others? What does this tell us about his intended audience? To whom is he speaking, ultimately?

2. In Habakkuk 2:2 God begins to explain his answer to Habakkuk. What is the challenge going to be for Habakkuk in v. 2-3; why is this answer going to be difficult to hear?

3. God told Habakkuk a number of things about the vision he was giving him. List those things from Habakkuk 2:3. Do any of these statements appear to be contradictory? What is the main message God is giving in these verses and are there things you think of that can help explain what might seem to be mixed messages?

4. What is the connection between faith and righteousness according to Habakkuk 2:4? Look at how Habakkuk 2:4 is quoted in the New Testament (Read Romans 1:16, 17; Galatians 3:10-11). How does the application of this verse in the New Testament help us understand what it means for the righteous to live by faith?

5. One of the characteristics of Hebrew poetry is to set one image beside another so that they seem to be at odds with each other. Do you see that as you consider how Habakkuk 2:4 relates to 2:5? Putting such images side by side invites the reader to slow down and reflect on the images and language. The intent is to push the reader's thoughts in a certain direction, to see what ideas are most pertinent. With that in mind, what is the focus God has in mind when he uses the imagery of 2:5 which then introduces what follows in 2:6-20?

6. What is the wine that is in mind in Habakkuk 2:5? Compare Psalm 75:8.

7. Chapter 2 lists five woes (v. 6, 9, 12, 15, 19). Look at the first woe in 2:6-8 and answer the following questions:

What was their sin(s)?

Is there a modern equivalent that comes to your mind?

What did God say would be their final end?

8. Babylon believed that their acquiring more and more (by their conquering more and more nations) would result in their security (2:9). How do you see that type of thinking in our culture today?

Personal question: Is there anything in your possession that belongs to someone else or was acquired by dishonest gain?

9. How does Habakkuk 2:14 relate to the woes that surround it?

10. What is the sin that is in focus in the final woe in Habakkuk 2 (v. 18-19)? Is this sin still a problem today? How is it seen?

11. How is Habakkuk 2:20 related to the previous section of woes? Note especially the word 'but' that begins the verse.