



Habakkuk

**Old
Testament**

β 35th book of the Bible (out of 66)

β 0.18% of the verses in the Bible

β Written by Habakkuk

God is active. God is loving. How do we expect Him to be interacting in our lives? What about internationally? Habakkuk brought a message to his countrymen that would have shocked them: God was about to use their enemy to do His will. (The Babylonians attacked Jerusalem in 587BC, whilst the northern Kingdom of Israel had been conquered by Assyria around 100 years earlier.) How extraordinary! That appears unjust! Habakkuk is perplexed about this. It doesn't seem right to the prophet and he tells God so. How could another country that was "fierce and ruthless" be used by God to discipline His chosen people? As Habakkuk converses with God, so he sees the bigger picture: *God* is faithful, *we* need to keep trusting Him and *the wicked* will get punished in the end. Questioning God can be very helpful, but don't let unanswered questions and doubts rob you of joy today.

Facts: Habakkuk lived in Judah in the 7th century BC - at around the same time as Jeremiah and Zephaniah. He is also mentioned in the Apocrypha.

Habakkuk's prayer/song in chapter 3 could give voice to how we might feel at the moment. It is a challenge to us to continue to live in hope even when the things that surround us seem hard, frightening or just plain wrong. Do the bad things that happen to us and our loved ones push us closer to God or lead us away from Him?

A commentary on the first two chapters of this book was found amongst the Dead Sea Scrolls. This strongly suggests that it was a

popular book during the inter-testimonial times.

Aim to read the whole book over the next two weeks.