

Recap of 11/19/17 (Hab 1:1-4):

1. Have you ever asked God why? I know I have. Why is there evil? Why do the wicked prosper while your people suffer? Why did this happen to me? Why did you heal that person but not this person? Habakkuk is a great book for us when we get into a 'why God?' mood. Charles Ryrie said Habakkuk is "A defense of God's goodness and power in view of the existence of evil." Habakkuk asks God why and is surprised by the answer. As we study this book, I hope we come to the same conclusion he did -- ultimately our why questions only have one satisfying answer. God answers our why questions with Who. Although we may want to know why, it is only the person of God that truly brings comfort and satisfaction. Even when everything seems to be going wrong, we should live by faith; faith in who God is and what He has done for us!

2. Habakkuk lived sometime during the last years before Judah was taken into captivity by Babylon. The time was characterized by bad kings, idolatry, and a general apathy toward God's commands (sound familiar?). The book is made up of Habakkuk's initial complaint (1:1-4), God's answer (1:5-11), Habakkuk's 2nd complaint (1:12-2:1);

God's response (2:2-20), and Habakkuk's prayer of praise and submission (3:1-19).

3. Habakkuk is different from other prophets in that he talks to God about the people instead of talking to the people about God.

4. Habakkuk's initial complaint consists of three main parts. 1) How long do I have to cry for help before You act? 2) Why do you allow contention, strife, destruction, and violence (i.e. wickedness)? 3) Can't You see that Your law is ignored, justice is perverted, and the wicked surround the righteous?