

Recap of 7/29/18 (Hab 1:12-2:1):

1. Have you ever asked God why? Why is there evil? Why do the wicked prosper while God's 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. Who God is. 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, what He has done for us, and His plans for the future!
2. In this section, Habakkuk is shaken by God's initial response that has challenged his theology. Before Habakkuk delves into more questions, he reminds himself of God's character, His promises, and His Sovereignty. He states that God is eternal, personal, holy, just, and our strength (1:12). God will not destroy Israel because of His promises to Israel that have yet to be fulfilled. Habakkuk also acknowledges that God is using Babylon to discipline Israel. God's discipline isn't pleasant, but it is restorative and helps us grow closer to Him (Heb 12:11).
3. Now that he has reassured himself regarding what he knows of God, Habakkuk is wrestling with his own theology. How can the God he knows put up with the evilness of the Chaldeans, a people even more wicked than Israel. God appears to favor them and is silent while their wickedness prospers.
4. Finally, Habakkuk purposes to stand guard while he waits on the answer from God that Habakkuk knows will inform his ignorance and allow him to inform the people of God's plans.