



## Old Testament Outline: Habakkuk by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

### Habakkuk = “Embracing”

### [God Is Principled] Blueprint for Redemption

#### I. Where Is God When His People Sin? **1:2-11**

##### A. Prophet’s Problem #1: What About *Unanswered Prayer*? **1:2-4**

1. Cries to God about “violence” among His people **1:2**
2. More trouble (it gets worse) **1:3**
3. Human conclusion: God and His law are “powerless” **1:4**

##### B. God’s Answer to #1: What About *Unprincipled People*? **1:5-11**

1. Your unbelievable answer is coming *soon* from  
“among the nations” **1:5** **Cf John 8:45**
2. God is “raising up the Chaldeans” to put you in your misery **1:6-11**
  - a. Cruel, capricious, criminal **1:6**
  - b. Homicidal, horrifying, head-strong **1:7**
  - c. Speedy, savage, swift **1:8**
  - d. Violent, vehement, virulent **1:9**
  - e. Scoffing, scorning, sneering, seizing **1:10**
  - f. Idolatrous **1:11**

#### II. Where Is God When Evil People Win? **1:12-2:20**

##### A. Prophet’s Problem #2: How Can Wicked Work For God? **1:12-2:1**

1. God’s people are marked for punishment by the godless **1:12**
2. God cannot endorse (“look on”) wickedness **1:13a**
3. How, then, can the ungodly conquer the godly? **1:13b-17**
  - a. They respect no higher authority **1:14**
  - b. They respect absolute power over others **1:15-16**
  - c. They respect no pain in their victims **1:17**
4. The prophet waits to respond to God’s reply **2:1**

**B. God's Answer to #2: One Law Fits All 2:2-20**

1. God's application of the rule was soon to be seen **2:2-3**

2. **God's inflexible, unyielding rule for everyone:**

**Human pride is unjustified - Only the faithful are justified 2:4**

3. Description of unjustifiable wickedness **2:5-19**

a. **WOE #1 - Disrespect for Perimeters 2:5-8**

(1 Inebriate, insatiable **2:5** **Cf Proverbs 20:1; 30:15-16**

(2 The robbed will rebel **2:6-8**

b. **WOE #2 - Lust for Possessions 2:9-11**

(1 Nests on top of "evil gain" **2:9**

(2 Loses conscience in the process **2:10**

(3 House secrets revealed **2:11**

c. **WOE #3 - Disrespect for People 2:12-14**

(1 Personal glory through using others **2:12**

(2 God makes this "vain" **2:13**

(3 Everyone knows better **2:14**

d. **WOE #4 - Disrespect for Privacy 2:15-17**

(1 Drunkenness loosens inhibitions **2:15**

**Cf Genesis 9:20-27; 19:30-38; Ephesians 5:18**

(2 Nations may drink of the cup of God's wrath **2:16-17**

**Cf Jeremiah 51:7; Revelation 14:8-11; 17:1-6; 18:1-10**

e. **WOE #5 - Disrespect for The Power 2:18-19**

(1 Man-made gods **2:18**

(2 Man cannot invent life! **2:19**

(3 Description of untouchable God **2:20**

**Cf Psalm 11:4; Zephaniah 1:7; Zechariah 2:13;**

**Matthew 6:9; 1 Timothy 6:14-16**

**III. Where Is God When He Is Needed? 3:1-19**

**A. Prophet's Prayer 3:1-16**

1. For God's plans to *get moving* and *have mercy* **3:2**

2. For God's discipline on wicked people, as before **3:3-7**

**Cf Deuteronomy 33:2**

3. For God's displeasure to save His people **3:8-9**

**Cf Psalm 77; Deuteronomy 32:40-42**

4. For God's use of *natural forces* **3:10-11** **Cf Joshua 10:1-15**

**Cf Isaiah 13:9-13; Joel 2:1-2,10; 3:14; Amos 8:9**

5. For God's permanent purpose of good for His people **3:12-15**

6. For God's respect and awe **3:16**

**B. Prophet's Praise 3:17-19**

1. Though all may be lost in persecution **3:17**

2. God's people will NOT lose faith in God's way **3:18-19**

## "Hugs" From Habakkuk:

- Nothing known about Habakkuk's personal background, but he prophesied just before Babylonians conquered Judah, about 612-606 B.C. (**2 Kings 23:31-25:21; 2 Chronicles 36:1-23**), and was contemporary with **Jeremiah** and **Daniel**. **Habakkuk's** prophecy is unique in that he is the only prophet to plead the people's case before God before giving God's explanations to the people.
- **Habakkuk summarizes the entire Bible principle of God's religion, whether patriarchal, mosaic, or Christian.** In **2:4** it is set forth in so many words for the first time in the Bible: "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith" (**Habakkuk 2:4** NKJV). **God does NOT justify those who live by evil, only those who live by faith.**
  - (1) The apostle Paul uses this phrase to show that the church of Christ is among the Gentiles by the preaching of the Gospel (**Romans 1:17**) and contrasts this with their previous ungodly lives (**Romans 1:18-32**);
  - (2) shows that Jews cannot be saved by Moses' law (**Galatians 3:11**) but by Christ's law (**Galatians 3:12-4:7**).
  - (3) In **Hebrews**, it is used to show it was the guiding principle of the entire Old Testament (**10:38; Cf 10:31-12:11**). *God always punishes the evil and always rewards the faithful* (**Psalms 37:25; Hebrews 11:6**).
- The only use of the term "Selah" outside of the **Book of Psalms** is in **Habakkuk 3:3, 9, 13**.