

**First Mount Zion Baptist Church  
Mid-Day and Evening Bible Study  
December 18, 2024**

**Presenters: Rev Chris Peterson (Mid-day); Rev Cynthia Ball (7:30 PM)  
Habakkuk 1:1-3:19**

**Author:** Habakkuk was a prophet whom little is known about. The closing of Habakkuk 3:19 “To the Chief Musician. With my stringed instruments” suggests Habakkuk was also a priest. This prophetic book takes its name from its author and means “one who embraces.” (1:1; 3:1). By the end of the prophecy, this name becomes appropriate as the prophet clings to God regardless of his confusion about God’s plans for his people. His simple introduction as “the prophet” may imply that he needed no introduction since he was a well-known prophet of his day. It is certain that he was a contemporary of Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and Zephaniah.

**Theme:** The whole Book of Habakkuk is really devoted to this question: “Lord, if You are all powerful, why is evil allowed to exist?” The events that seem to have precipitated this question are the victories of Babylon. God was using Babylon, a nation without God, to punish Israel, God’s own people. The answers God gave to this question in Habakkuk solidly point us in one direction, but the ultimate answer to the problem of evil is faith in God alone.<sup>1</sup>

**Background:** Habakkuk takes us through his journey to discover the justice of God considering the unrighteousness of men. Before the invasion of the southern Kingdom of Israel by the Babylonians, Habakkuk struggles with the question of why the righteous must suffer amid God’s judgment of the unrighteous. Additionally, God is using the unrighteous to bring judgment on His chosen people. Habakkuk wants to tell the people that they must understand the WHO when they don’t understand the WHY. This book is designed to encourage us in the times when we don’t understand God’s rationale and when His judgment looks and seems unfair. The point of the book is that “the just shall live by faith.”

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1. What were Habakkuk’s questions in his first prayer? (Habakkuk 1:2-3, 12-13)

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<sup>1</sup> Nelson, Thomas (2023), The book of Habakkuk. *The Bible Study Bible.*, pp 1373, Nashville, TN: Harper Collins

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2. How did God respond to Habakkuk's first questions? (Habakkuk 1:5-11)

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3. Habakkuk receives God's response to his first question but goes on to ask a second question. What was the difference between the two sets of questions? (Habakkuk 1:2-3, 1:12-14)

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4. How does Habakkuk respond to God's response to his second question? (Habakkuk 2:1) What lesson does Habakkuk's response teach us about interacting with God?

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5. What method did God tell Habakkuk to use to document the vision? (Habakkuk 2:2)

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6. Do the "Woe Oracles" address Habakkuk's pleas to God for justice? (Habakkuk 2:6-19)

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7. What does Habakkuk ask God to remember in His wrath? (Habakkuk 3:2)

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8. What are the just people of God to live by? (Habakkuk 2:4)

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### **REFLECTION**

**"Faith is not a one-time act, but a way of life. The true believer, declared righteous by God, will habitually persevere in faith throughout all his [their] life (cf Col 1:22, 23; Heb 3:12-14). He will trust [the true believer trusts] the sovereign God who only does what is right."**

**John MacArthur**