

## OUTLINES OF HABAKKUK

### Basic Outline of Habakkuk<sup>1</sup>

1. Title (1.1)
2. Habakkuk's First Complaint: Why does the evil in Judah go unpunished? (1.2-4)
3. God's Answer: The Babylonians will punish Judah (1.5-11)
4. Habakkuk's Second Complaint: How can a just God use wicked Babylon to punish a people more righteous than themselves? (1.12-2.1)
5. God's Answer: Babylon will be punished, and faith will be rewarded (2.2-20)
6. Habakkuk's Prayer: After asking for manifestations of God's wrath and mercy (as he has seen in the past), he closes with a confession of trust and joy in God (3.1-19)

### Topical Outline of Habakkuk<sup>2</sup>

- I. Problems of faith, 1.1-2.20
  - A. How can a holy God permit unholiness to go unchecked? 1.1-12
    1. Oppression unchecked in Judah, 1.2-5
    2. The Chaldeans as God's scourge, 1.6-12
  - B. How can God permit a wicked nation to triumph over his people? 1.13-2.20
    1. Ruthless cruelty and crass idolatry of the Chaldeans, 1.13-17
    2. The believer to wait humbly, trusting God's answer, 2.1-4
    3. Judgment of God will smite the Chaldeans, 2.5-19
    4. God's continued sovereignty over his earth, 2.20
- II. Doubts all settled: the prayer of faith and unshakable trust, 3.1-19
  - A. Prayer for revival, 3.1-2
  - B. Past judgments of the Lord a sure token for the future, 3.3-16
  - C. The believer's joy in God alone, God's holiness vindicated, 3.17-19

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<sup>1</sup>*New International Version Study Bible*, General Editor, Kenneth L. Barker (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), 1520.

<sup>2</sup>Gleason Archer, *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1964), 344.

Literary Analysis of Habakkuk<sup>3</sup>

Superscription (1.1)

- I. Initial exchange (1.2-11)
  - A. The prophet's complaint (1.2-4)
  - B. God's response (1.4-11)
  
- II. Second exchange (1.12-2.5)
  - A. The prophet's complaint (1.12-17)
  - B. God's response (2.1-5)
  
- III. Woe oracles against the oppressor (2.6-20)
  - A. The plunderer plundered (2.6-8)
  - B. The conqueror shamed (2.9-11)
  - C. The builder undone (2.12-14)
  - D. The shameless shamed (2.15-18)
  - E. The idolater silenced (2.19-20)
  
- IV. Habakkuk's psalm of submission (3.1-19)
  - A. A prayer (3.2)
  - B. The appearance of the divine warrior (3.3-15)
  - C. The prophet living by his faith (3.16-19)

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<sup>3</sup>Raymond B. Dillard and Tremper Longman III, *An Introduction to the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994), 411-412.