

LIVING GODS WILL

Prophet of God

HABAKKUK



Habakkuk and the Angel by Bernini

Born: Unknown

Died: Unknown

Habakkuk authored the **Book of Habakkuk** in the Old Testament.

Habakkuk was a **prophet of God** from **612 – 605 BC**.

Habakkuk prophesied the **sins of Judah** and their **judgment from God**.

Habakkuk wrote about the **Chaldean (Babylonian)** rise to power.

Almost nothing is known about **Habakkuk**, aside from what is stated within the book of the Bible bearing his name, or those inferences that may be drawn from that book.

His name appears in the Bible only in **Habakkuk 1:1 and 3:1**, with no biographical details provided other than his title "**the prophet**." Even the origin of his name is uncertain.

For almost every other prophet, more information is given, such as the name of the prophet's hometown, his occupation, or information concerning his parentage or tribe. For **Habakkuk**, however, there is no reliable account of any of these.

Although his home is not identified, scholars conclude that **Habakkuk** lived in Jerusalem at the time he wrote his prophecy. Further analysis has provided an approximate date for his prophecy and possibilities concerning his activities and background.

Beyond the Bible, considerable conjecture has been put forward over the centuries in the form of Christian and Rabbinic tradition, but such accounts are dismissed by modern scholars as speculative and apocryphal.

Because the book of **Habakkuk** consists of five oracles about the Chaldeans (Babylonians), and the Chaldean rise to power is dated circa **612 BC**, it is assumed he was active about that time, making him an early contemporary of **Jeremiah and Zephaniah**.

Jewish sources, however, do not group him with those two prophets, who are often placed together, so it is possible that he was slightly earlier than these prophets.

Because the final chapter of his book is a song, it is sometimes assumed that he was a member of the tribe of **Levi**, which served as musicians in Solomon's Temple.

The Book of Habakkuk

Author: **Habakkuk 1:1** identifies the **Book of Habakkuk** as an oracle from the Prophet **Habakkuk**.

Date of Writing: The Book of **Habakkuk** was likely written between **610 and 605 B.C.**

Purpose of Writing: The prophet **Habakkuk** decries the sins of **Judah** but grapples with the fact that **God's** chosen people will suffer at the hands of enemies even more wicked than they. **God** answers **Habakkuk** questions, resulting in continuing faith in **God's** wisdom, sovereignty, and salvation.

Brief Summary: The **Book of Habakkuk** begins with **Habakkuk** crying out to **God** for an answer to why **God's** chosen people are allowed to suffer in their captivity (**Habakkuk 1:1-4**). The **Lord** gives His answer to **Habakkuk**, essentially stating, "**You wouldn't believe it if I told you**" (**Habakkuk 1: 5-11**).

Habakkuk then follows up by saying, "**Ok, you are God, but still tell me more about why this is happening**" (**Habakkuk 1:17-2:1**). **God** then answers him again and gives him more information, then tells the earth to be silent before **Him** (**Habakkuk 2:2-20**). Then **Habakkuk** writes a prayer expressing his strong faith in **God**, even through these trials (**Habakkuk 3:1-19**).

Foreshadowings: The **Apostle Paul** quotes **Habakkuk 2:4** on two different occasions (**Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11**) to reiterate the doctrine of justification by faith. The faith that is the gift of **God** and available through **Christ** is at once a faith that saves (**Ephesians 2:8-9**) and a faith that sustains throughout life.

We attain eternal life by faith and we live the Christian life by the same faith. Unlike the "**proud**" in the beginning of the verse, whose soul is not right within him (NASB) and whose desires are not upright (NIV), but we who are made righteous by faith in **Christ** are made completely righteous because He has exchanged His perfect righteousness for our sin (**2 Corinthians 5:21**) and has enabled us to live by faith.

Practical Application: The application to the reader of **Habakkuk** is that it is permissible to question what **God** is doing, although with respect and reverence. Sometimes it is not evident to us what is going on, especially if we are thrown into suffering for a period of time or if it seems our enemies are prospering while we are just barely getting by.

The **Book of Habakkuk** affirms that **God** is a sovereign, omnipotent **God** who has all things under control. We just need to be still and know **He** is at work. **He** is who **He** says **He** is and does keep **His** promises.

He will punish the wicked. Even when we cannot see it, **He** is still on the throne of the universe. We need to stay focused on this: "**The Sovereign Lord is my strength; He makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights**" (**Habakkuk 3:19**).

Enabling us to go on the heights is taking us to the higher places with **Him** where we are set apart from the world. Sometimes the way we have to go to get us there is through suffering and sorrow, but if we rest in **Him** and trust **Him**, we come out where **He** wants us.

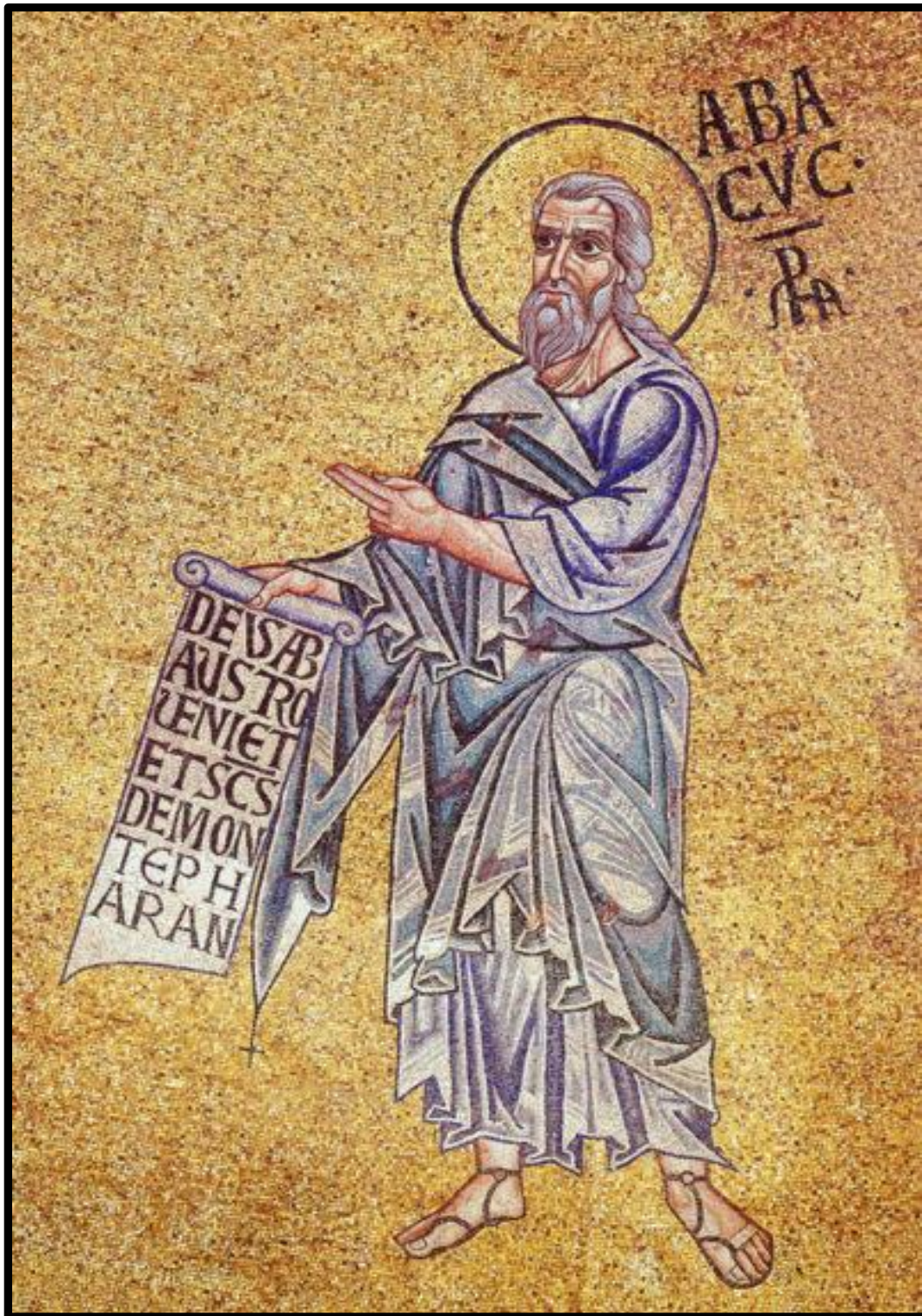
SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

Habakkuk 1:2 "How long, Oh Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, 'Violence!' but you do not save."

Habakkuk 1:5 "Look at the nations and watch and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if I told you."

Habakkuk 1:12 "Oh, Lord are you not from everlasting? My God, My Holy One, we will not die."

Habakkuk 2:20 "But the Lord is in His Holy temple; let all the earth be silent before Him."



Prophet Habakkuk (Mosaic)
Saint Mark's Basilica, Venice Italy