

The Minor Prophets “The Twelve”

Hosea	Nahum
Joel	Habakkuk
Amos	Zephaniah
Obadiah	Haggai
Jonah	Zechariah
Micah	Malachi

Prophetic Ministry: 800 – 430 B.C.

Habakkuk

Outline

- Chapter 1: *Wrestling with God*
- Chapter 2: *Response by God*
- Chapter 3: *Resolution about God*

Habakkuk

Theme: The relation of God, who is holy, to a sinful world, full of wickedness and injustice

- “why does God seemingly approve of evil?”

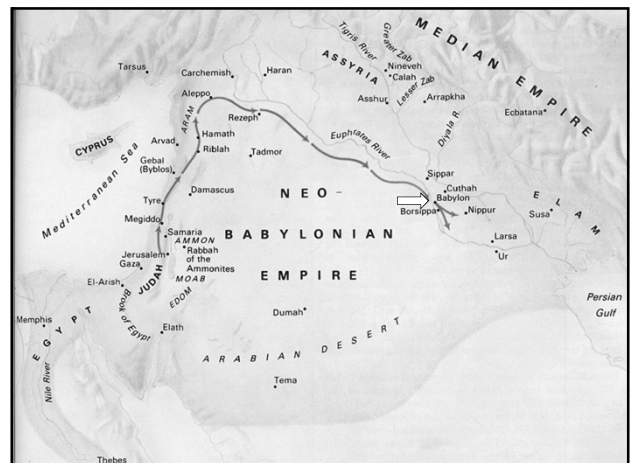
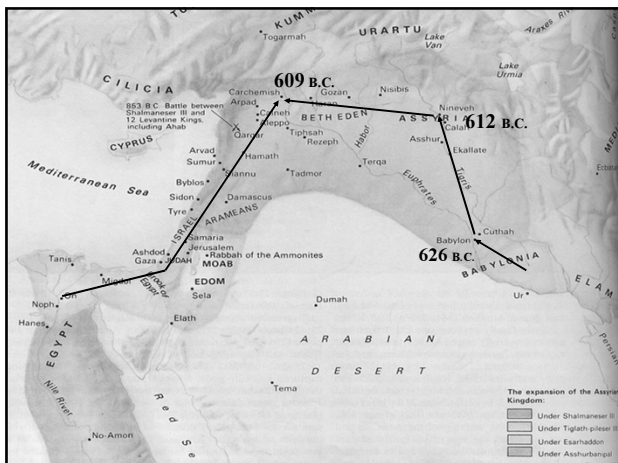
Message: “The Just Shall Live by Faith”

- the seed form of the NT doctrine of justification by faith (heart of the Gospel)

Habakkuk

Historical Setting

1. **Date:** between 609-606 B.C. (w/ Jeremiah)
 - During the reign of King Jehoiakim; Judah is engrossed in idolatry and injustice
2. **International Scene:**
 - The rise of the Chaldeans (“the Babylonians”)



Habakkuk's Perplexity (chpt. 1)

- 1. First Complaint/Question (v2-4)**
 - Why doesn't God deliver the righteous by judging the wicked of Judah?
- 2. God's Answer (v5-11)**
 - He is raising up the fierce Chaldeans to bring judgment on His people
- 3. Second (greater) Complaint (v12-17)**
 - How can God, who is holy, use a wicked people to judge Judah?

Theological Complexities

Issue: How can God who is holy ordain wicked nations, people, and actions to accomplish His good and holy purposes?

- 1. God *does* ordain evil for His purpose**
 - Clearly stated in the case of the Chaldeans
- 2. Making Careful Distinctions**
 - Fundamental difference between God purposing and using evil, and His loving or causing it
 - Although He hates evil in itself and will hold those guilty who practice it, yet He ordains that it exist for good purposes (beyond our perspective)