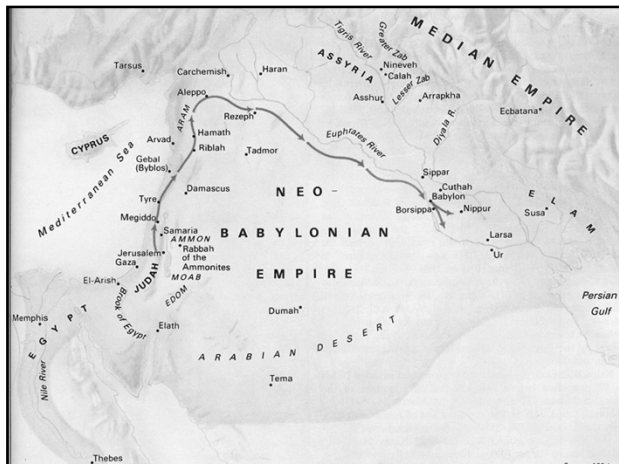


The Minor Prophets “The Twelve”

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

Prophetic Ministry: 800 – 430 B.C.

Habakkuk *A Perplexed Prophet*



Habakkuk *A Perplexed Prophet*

Problem: God’s plan to raise up and use wicked, violent people to destroy Judah

Question: Because God is using these wicked Chaldeans to accomplish His purpose, does that mean God...

looks with favor on the Chaldeans or,
approves of their violence and treachery or,
will not judge or hold them accountable?

God’s Response: Chapter Two

Principles of Divine Government

1. The proud (i.e. the Chaldeans) are not upright and will die
2. The just will live by his faith

God’s Response: Chapter Two

1. Destruction of the Chaldeans (v6-20)

- Pronounces five “woes” on the Chaldeans
- Final perspective – ultimately God’s glory alone will fill the earth
- The Lord is Holy and all the earth is without excuse before Him

❖ He answers Habakkuk’s question: God never condones sin and will always judge the wicked

Theological Issue

Issue: *How can God raise up and use evil nations/people for His purposes and then hold them accountable and judge them for their actions?*

- God does not cause sin or make people sinful; man by nature is sinful and freely chooses to sin
- God gives people over to the sin they freely choose, yet He so governs their free actions so as to accomplish His purposes
- Men are held guilty for sin because they freely choose to sin (not forced or coerced to sin)

Acts 4:27-28

**“For truly in this city (i.e. Jerusalem) there were gathered together against Thy holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,
to do whatever Thy hand and Thy purpose predestined to occur.”**

2. The Just will Live by Faith

A. Meaning

- “will live” – opposite of die; gain life
- “by his faith” – means of gaining life

B. Implications

- People who are just are people who trust God
- Faith is what saves – it gives life

C. The Gospel

- Does not state the relationship between faith and righteousness
- Paul – the just will live by faith because they are declared just by faith (“justification by faith”)

Message of Habakkuk

Question: When the judgment of God comes, what is it that will bring life instead of death?

Answer: FAITH!

- Not mere intellectual affirmation, but *trust* in the person and word of God
- Opposite of pride