

Communion Meditation

Hab 2.1-4 "The Just Shall Live by Faith" September 30th, 2018

Habakkuk (Contemporary of Jeremiah)

- Assyria conquered Israel (Samaria) a century earlier
 - Assyrians outside Jerusalem – but Hezekiah prayed (185k killed – **2 Ki 19**)
 - Hezekiah's life extended – Babylonian envoy – Isaiah rebukes Hezekiah
 - King Manasseh ruled w/great evil for 55 years – Amon 2 yrs – Josiah 31 yrs
 - Law found & reforms come under King Josiah
 - Judah lived in fear of Assyria for 100 yrs – But Chaldeans were real threat

Habakkuk Prays for Justice & God Replies

- **Read 1.1-4** ~ "O Lord, how long .. perverse judgment proceeds"
 - Note that the injustice is within Judah
 - Though there had been outward reform – the people were still wicked
- **Read 1.5-10** ~ "Look among the nations .. mounds and seize"
 - Habakkuk prayed for rescue from injustice within Judah
 - Yet God promises an invasion which will destroy Judah

Habakkuk Prays Again for Justice & God Gives Rationale

- Habakkuk reminds God in **vss 12 - 17** of Chaldeans greater wickedness
 - **vss 16-17** ~ Refers to Chaldeans sacrificing to nets and slaying nations
- Then he climbs wall of city and waits for God's answer
- God tells Habakkuk what we read at start (**2.2-4**)

Two Quotes of Habakkuk 2.4 from New Testament

- Paul quotes **Hab 2.4** in **Rom 1.16-17** ~ "For I am not .. shall live by faith"
- Also in **Heb 10.35-39** ~ "Therefore do not .. saving of the soul"
- Paul told the Romans the wrath of God would fall from heaven to earth
- Writer of Hebrews assures readers that faith is required at such times

It's good that we call on God for justice on earth – in our communities & nation

But sometimes God gives scary answers to such prayers for justice

Habakkuk got such an answer / Readers of Hebrews got such an answer

It's very important that we ourselves "live justly" in wicked times – "by faith"