**OUTLINE:**

1. Historical Background
2. Introduction
3. Theme
4. Summary
   1. Habakkuk’s 1st Complaint (Hab. 1:1-4)
   2. God’s 1st Answer (Hab. 1:5-11)
   3. Habakkuk’s 2nd Complaint (Hab. 1:12-2:1)
   4. God’s 2nd Answer (Hab. 2:2-20)
   5. Habakkuk’s Prayer (Hab. 3:1-19)

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The opening verse of the book identifies the book as the oracle of the prophet Habakkuk. His name seems to come from the Hebrew word *chabaq*, which means to “embrace.” Habakkuk might have been a Levite and even a priest, since the end of the book contains musical instruction, typically associated with Levites (Hab 3:19). A dual role as prophet and priest was not necessarily uncommon. The prophets Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Zechariah also served as priests.

**THEME:**

The book of Habakkuk examines injustice from the experience of a righteous person crying out to God for a remedy. God responds to the prophet: Be patient, observant, and steady in your faith, for my judgment will happen at the appointed time. God’s response allows Habakkuk to rejoice in God’s saving power—even while struggling with a question that every generation asks: Why is evil allowed to thrive? The answer is profound yet difficult: Trust God because He is both powerful and just.

John D. Barry et al., [*Faithlife Study Bible*](https://ref.ly/res/LLS:FSB/2023-02-17T19:53:47Z/7990588?len=489) (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016).

**CHAPTER SUMMARIES:**