

To study Nahum with greater facility read the book quickly to get a feel of the overall study and then read with an eye to the speech figures and how they interpret the message of the prophet.

For Further Reading consult the volumes suggested at the close of the Micah notes, page 66.

b. Further study in Nahum:

- The significance of vs. 7 in the the thrust of judgment
- the nature of the predictions of 2:6

These smaller books are not to be overlooked but they tend to have a single point of reference: that is, to deal with one issue on the whole. Many lesser points may be taken up in analysis but generally one thrust is regarded as the major port of the material.

8. A Survey Study of Habakkuk ("God's Methods")

a. An Overview

While virtually nothing is known of the author of this book, it has long been regarded as one of the more beautiful and socially satisfying of the minor prophets. Conservatives dates it at about 600 BC (many liberals also use that date) and some scholars date it as late as 330 BC depending on the understanding of 1:6 and the term "Chaldeans". Needless to say there is some criticism suggesting that parts of it are by different writers and that chapter 3 in particular, a classic psalm of poem form, is by a different hand. But the message is uniform throughout the work and there is little need to see different sources. The character of the foe treated and the nature of Israel's problems are similar enough to Jeremiah to allow us to think that Habakkuk was dealing with the same problem as far as the national enemies were concerned. The book is poetic...the first two chapters consisting of five poems and the third chapter being a psalm identified with the musical title "Shigionoth."

For an outline, I suggest the following:

- I. The prophecies of Habakkuk 1:1-2:20
 - A. The failure of the law 1:1-4
 - B. The Chaldeans 1:5-11
 - C. The appeal 1:12-17
 - D. The punishment of the wicked, etc. 2:1-5
 - E. Judgment on the Chaldeans 2:6-20
- II. The Prayer of Habakkuk 3:1-19

In the Scheme of redemption the book of Habakkuk plays an important role. First, it explains how God can use the heathen to judge His own wayfaring people and still be a righteous God. (1:12-17) This is an important matter to the prophet since it seems that the use of these idol worshippers is a disgrace to Jehovah (1:5-11) But the response of God will come and those who live by faith (2:4) will see it and see God justified. The key thrust is to trust God, live by faith, and remain obedient. This idea of Habakkuk's is later used in Romans, Galatians, and Hebrews to show the correctness in comprehending the life that God wants of His own.