

Habakkuk; Jehoiakim

Habakkuk prophesied to Judah. Habakkuk was so sad at all of the evil in Judah. He asked God how long He would let these wicked people go unpunished. God told Habakkuk that he would not believe what He had planned for Judah even if it were told. God was raising up the Babylonians to punish wicked Judah. Babylon was a cruel nation that loved power.

Habakkuk wanted to know why God would allow the nation of Babylon to punish Judah, when they were more evil than Judah. Would God punish Babylon for their wickedness? Habakkuk said he would stand watch and wait to see God's answer.

God told Habakkuk that Babylon had made bad choices, so like Judah, they would also be punished. God would use wicked Babylon to punish Judah, but Babylon would have her day of punishment. Babylon may not have been punished as soon as Habakkuk would have liked, but God told Habakkuk to wait for it. It would happen as soon as God was finished using Babylon for His purpose.

God in all His power would punish the wicked to save His people. God has always done what is best and good for His people. Habakkuk prayed God would remember mercy while He was punishing His people. Habakkuk knew God's punishment would be severe, but he would stay faithful to God. God would give him strength!

When Jehoahaz was taken to Egypt by Pharaoh Necho, his brother, Jehoiakim was made king. Pharaoh Necho made Jehoiakim pay a lot of money to him. Jehoiakim was very wicked!

At this time, Jeremiah was preaching in the court of God's house. God hoped that the people would turn from their evil ways. Jeremiah told the people that God would destroy Jerusalem if they did not change their evil ways. The people became so angry when they heard this. They wanted to kill Jeremiah! Jeremiah told them that if they killed him, it would just make their punishment worse. Some elders of Judah said, "Remember when Micah prophesied to Hezekiah that Jerusalem would be destroyed if Judah didn't change her evil ways? Hezekiah didn't kill him! The people changed their ways and were not destroyed. We are about to bring disaster upon ourselves!"

The people did not kill Jeremiah. However, another prophet named Uriah was killed for prophesying against Jerusalem. How sad!

Main Points:

1. God will punish the wicked.
2. God doesn't do things on our time. We must wait on Him!
3. We must follow God, even when it is hard.
4. We need to learn from the past.

Habakkuk Song

(To the tune of: "God is So Good")

God when will You punish people
Who have been so wicked to You?
Habakkuk, wait. Have faith in Me.
For in My time, I will punish them.

Lesson 18 Questions: Habakkuk & Jehoiakim

1. How did Habakkuk feel about the wickedness of Judah?

Happy

Sad

2. Was God going to punish the wicked?

Yes

No

3. Does God do things when man thinks He should?

Yes

No

4. What nation was God going to use to punish Judah?

Assyria

Babylon

5. Does God always do what is best for His people?

Yes

No

6. Who did Pharaoh Necho make king in Judah?

Jehoahaz

Jehoiakim

7. Who preached to the people in the court of God's house?

Habakkuk

Jeremiah

8. What did the people want to do to him?

Hug him

Kill him

9. What king did the people remember, who listen to Micah, and didn't kill him?

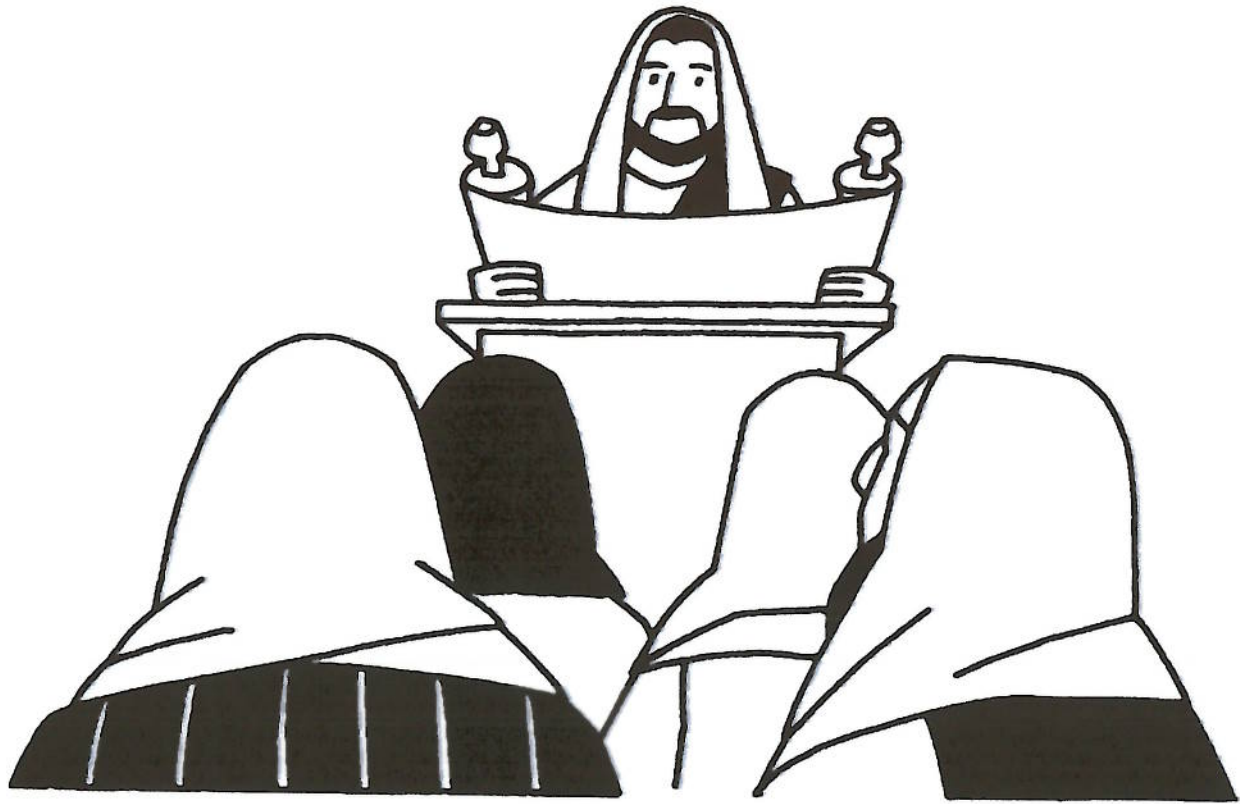
Hezekiah

Josiah

10. Did the people kill Jeremiah?

Yes

No



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