



Tecumseh United Methodist Church  
 Making Disciples of Christ for the Transformation of the World

# Bible Study: *The Minor Prophets*

## Session 3: *Habakkuk*

### Historical Context

Date & place of writing: c. 605 BCE; Judah/Jerusalem

Events:

- Jehoiakim is king of Judah – is characterized as a bad king in 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles (he had “done evil in the Lord’s sight”)
- 2 Kings 23 – Jehoiakim had laid a heavy tax on the people of Judah and used the money to pay tribute to Egypt’s Pharaoh Neco
- Captured by the Babylonians in 597 BCE
- 605 BCE – Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar defeat the Assyrians and Egyptians at Carchemish, thus establishing Babylonian supremacy

Text calls the Babylonians “Chaldeans”

### Outline of Habakkuk

1:1	Introduction	
1:2-2:20	Dialogue between the prophet and God	
	1:2-4	Prophet complains about God’s seeming inattentiveness to injustice
	1:5-8	God responds saying he will punish Judah using the Chaldeans (Babylonians)
	1:2-2:1	Prophet asks why Chaldeans, who will destroy just and unjust alike
	2:2-20	God responds with list of complaints of corruption, injustice, & idolatry
3:1-15	Prophet’s song of God’s glory and victorious might	
3:16-19	Although confronted with God’s retribution, prophet declares faith in God	

### Notes, Observations