

## August 1 Answers

- 1) Habakkuk lived during the reign of **Manasseh**. Evil and iniquity were everywhere, and Habakkuk couldn't understand why God allowed the wicked to "surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted" (Hab 1:4). God answered Habakkuk by addressing him and all the righteous of his day: "I am doing a work in your day that you would not **believe** if told" (Hab 1:5). God was raising up the **Babylonian** Empire, and it would crash down on Judah like a sledgehammer. Judah's sin would not go unpunished; justice was on its way. This teaches us that when evil seems to triumph, it is merely strutting on a stage that is set for God's **wrath** and judgment. Habakkuk was not happy at the thought of a Babylonian solution to Judah's problem, and he told God as much (Hab 1:13). God's reply came in the form of a **vision** of the future. It was a prophecy that wouldn't happen right away, but "**wait** for it; it will surely come" (Hab 2:3). Babylon was proud, and its pride would bring about its destruction, but "the righteous shall live by his **faith**" (Hab 2:4). God was telling Habakkuk that although Babylon would be used to punish Judah, they too would have their day of judgment. The important thing was for those who were righteous to **live** by faith. This verse is quoted three times in the NT. In **Romans** 1:17, salvation is received by everyone who believes ("by faith"). In **Hebrews** 10:38, the righteous endure to the end "by faith." In **Galatians** 3:11, believers are justified before God "by faith."