THE SOVEREIGN KING’S ANSWER

Habakkuk 2: 1-4
Habakkuk 2: 1-2

1 I will stand on my guard post
And station myself on the rampart;
And I will keep watch to see what He will speak to me,
And how I may reply when I am reproved.
2 Then the Lord answered me and said,
"Record the vision
And inscribe it on tablets,
That the one who reads it may run.
Habakkuk 2: 3-4

3 “For the vision is yet for the appointed time;
It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail.
Though it tarries, wait for it;
For it will certainly come, it will not delay.
4 “Behold, as for the proud one,
His soul is not right within him;
But the righteous will live by his faith.
I

Habakkuk, the Watchman
verse 1

1. His alertness and expectancy of God's answer
2. His preparedness to respond

II

God, the Sovereign King and His answer
verses 2-3

1. Instruction for documentation - v. 2
2. Promise of fulfillment – v. 3

III

Description of the Subjects - unrighteous and the righteous
verse 4

1. The unrighteous have pride
2. The righteous have faith
II

God, the Sovereign King and His answer

verses 2-3

1. Instruction for documentation - v. 2
2. Promise of fulfillment – v. 3
1. Instruction for documentation

Then the Lord answered me and said,
“Record the vision
And inscribe it on tablets,
That the one who reads it may run.
2 Then the Lord answered me and said, “Record the vision And inscribe it on tablets, That the one who reads it may run.

God shows His sovereignty to Habakkuk, not only in that He had an answer to Habakkuk’s dilemma, but also by giving 2 PRESENT ACTIVE COMMANDS.
2 Then the Lord answered me and said, 
“Record the vision
And inscribe it on tablets,
That the one who reads it may run.

The purpose for these two commandments is so that Habbakuk would now serve as a HERALD for the King.
So, from WATCHMAN, he becomes a HERALD.
Then the Lord answered me and said, “Record the vision And inscribe it on tablets, That the one who reads it may run.

The Lord wanted the vision to be recorded or inscribed so that it could be PASSED ON FROM ONE PERSON TO ANOTHER.
Then the Lord answered me and said,
“Record the vision
And inscribe it on tablets,
That the one who reads it may run.

The message was both bitter and sweet:
• the coming Chaldean invasion (which would be bitter)
• the ultimate Chaldean defeat (which would be sweet)
2. Promise of Fulfillment

3 “For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay.
2. Promise of Fulfillment

3 “For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay.

PERSONIFICATION of the vision
2. Promise of Fulfillment

3 "For the vision is yet for the appointed time;
It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail.
Though it tarries, wait for it;
For it will certainly come, it will not delay.

lit., "it pants toward the end," like a runner toward the finish line"

This speaks of God’s kingly sovereignty
arranging CIRCUMSTANCES towards the fulfillment of His PROPHECIES and PROMISES.
2. Promise of Fulfillment

3 “For the vision is yet for the appointed time;
It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail.
Though it tarries, wait for it;
For it will certainly come, it will not delay.

GOD's revelation WILL NOT PROVE FALSE. THOUGH the fulfillment seems delayed, IT WILL...COME to pass.

“God’s PROPHETIC WORD” never FAILS.
2. Promise of Fulfillment

3 “For the vision is yet for the appointed time;
It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail.
Though it tarries, wait for it;
For it will certainly come, it will not delay.

For those in Judah about to experience the awesome Babylonian invasion and Captivity, this assurance of fulfillment should have been a great comfort. Their barbaric captors would themselves in GOD's due time suffer divine judgment!
2. Promise of Fulfillment

3 “For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay.
2. Promise of Fulfillment

3 “For the vision is yet for the appointed time;

It (vision) hastens toward the goal and it (vision) will not fail.

Though it (vision) tarries,

wait for it;

For it (vision) will certainly come,

it (vision) will not delay.
2. Promise of Fulfillment

3 “For the vision is yet for the appointed time;
   It (vision) hastens toward the goal and it (vision) will not fail.
   Though it (vision) tarries, wait for it;
   For it (vision) will certainly come, it (vision) will not delay.

the intention is to emphasize the IMPORTANCE of waiting upon GOD’S JUSTICE or VINDICATION
2. Promise of Fulfillment

At times, God’s fulfillment of His promises takes a LITTLE LONG in being FULFILLED, at least from our PERCEPTION. But God’s exhortation is for us to WAIT. Like Habakkuk, Christians often feel angry and discouraged as they see how long His prophecies take to be fulfilled.
2. Promise of Fulfillment

God's answer to us is, "Be patient! I will work out my plans in my perfect timing."

**Wait for it**

SOMETIMES OUR PROBLEM IS THAT WE LACK THE PATIENCE.
2. Promise of Fulfillment

Every VISION has its **APPOINTED TIME**. God has His own timetable in FULFILLING His **PROPHECIES**. Every prophetic revelation demands a certain **degree of patience**. One must WAIT FOR its fulfillment.
2. Promise of Fulfillment

The fulfillment spoken of here has to do with BABYLON’S ULTIMATE JUDGMENT. God will make things right in the end.
2. Promise of Fulfillment

In the END, THINGS WILL BE MADE RIGHT BY GOD, by chastising the BABYLONIANS.
2. Promise of Fulfillment

3 “For the vision is yet for the appointed time;
It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail.
Though it tarries, wait for it;
For it will certainly come, it will not delay.
2. Promise of Fulfillment

3 “For the vision is yet for the appointed time;
It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail.
Though it tarries, wait for it;
For it will certainly come, it will not delay.

The word “CERTAINLY” is assurance that whatever God has prophesied shall indeed take place. When it’s appointed time comes, IT WILL HAPPEN.
2. Promise of Fulfillment

3 “For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay.

Delay in Hebrew is 'achts, aw-khar’, a primitive root; to loiter (i.e. be behind); by implication to procrastinate. When it’s time to happen, GOD WILL NOT PROCRASTINATE. God is not like us.
II
God, the Sovereign King and His answer
verses 2-3

1. Instruction for documentation - v. 2
2. Promise of fulfillment – v. 3
I

Habakkuk, the Watchman

verse 1

1. His alertness and expectancy of God’s answer
2. His preparedness to respond

II

God, the Sovereign King and His answer

verses 2-3

1. Instruction for documentation - v. 2
2. Promise of fulfillment – v. 3

III

Description of the Subjects - unrighteous and the righteous

verse 4

1. The unrighteous have pride
2. The righteous have faith
III

Description of the Subjects - unrighteous and the righteous

verses 4

1. The unrighteous have pride
2. The righteous have faith
1. The unrighteous have pride

4 "Behold, as for the proud one,
His soul is not right within him"
1. The unrighteous have pride

4 "Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him"
1. The unrighteous have pride

4 “Behold, as for the proud one,
   His soul is not right within him”

SYNECDOCHE – PART REPRESENTING THE WHOLE.

the proud one here is the nation of BABYLON and also in application EVIL Judah. One of the characteristics of those who are UNRIGHTHEOUS is that they are PROUD AGAINST GOD!
1. The unrighteous have pride

4 “Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him”

Heb. verb אָפָל is used only here in the OT
It speaks of being SWOLLEN.
1. The unrighteous have pride

4 “Behold, as for the proud one,
His soul is not right within him”

means that he is twisted; he is not straight. Pride has a way of twisting us. Pride has a way of setting its own standards, BECAUSE PRIDE HAS A WAY OF LIFTING US OVER GOD.
1. The unrighteous have pride

4 “Behold, as for the proud one,
His soul is not right within him”

Pride has a way of twisting our character and making us crooked.

- **Indicative mood** - it is a fact, not speculation
- **Present tense** - Babylon CONTINUES to do EVIL!
- **Active voice** - They are doing this willingly and ON PURPOSE, which makes them all the more guilty!
1. The unrighteous have pride

4 “Behold, as for the proud one,
His soul is not right within him”

- The primary reference in chapter 2 is Babylon
- Chapter 1 lists the wickedness of Judah, so both are GUILTY, both of their “souls” are NOT RIGHT and both are PROUD and therefore JUDGMENT awaits BOTH of them!
2. The righteous have faith

“But the righteous will live by his faith.”
2. The righteous have faith

“But the righteous will live by his faith.”

Chapters one and two talks about JUDGMENT.
• Chapter 2: 6 - 20 speaks about Babylon’s judgment.
• Chapter 1 speaks about the Southern Kingdom’s judgment.
2. The righteous have faith

“But the righteous will live by his faith.”

Both Babylon and Judah were both GUILTY before God and JUDGMENT was hanging over their heads!

The ONLY WAY OUT of this JUDGMENT is if they came in FAITH before God and REPENTING of all their EVIL WAYS. (Genesis15:6)
2. The righteous have faith

“But the righteous will live by his faith.”

Faith and REPENTANCE in turn would make them RIGHTEOUS in the EYES of God!
2. The righteous have faith

4 “But the righteous will live by his faith.”

Applied to Habakkuk and to the righteous few in Judah, this meant TRUSTING the Lord, that in the END, ALL will be made right! JUSTICE and GOODNESS will prevail proving that God is the SOVEREIGN KING over all
2. The righteous have faith

4 “But the righteous will live by his faith.”

To "live" meant to experience GOD'S blessing by enjoying a life of SECURITY, PROTECTION and FULLNESS. This is the fate of those who put their trust in the Lord.
What a JOY to know that our SOVEREIGN KING is in full control of the affairs of the world. He will never fail! All we need to do is to TRUST in Him and He will make things right!
THE SOVEREIGN KING'S ANSWER
Habakkuk 2: 1-4