

if we do not realize the real nature of sin, if we don't realize what it really is and how terrible it is, you can't understand how wonderful the salvation is that God has provided for us, and the great many of the theological problems and the philosophical problems ~~is~~ simply melt away if we just come to realize what a ~~terrible~~ terrible thing sin really is and how important it is, this thing that is at the very root of our whole character and our whole ~~lik~~ life and of our whole civilization. ¶ Well, Habakkuk starts right with that problem, and so we find after the title in verse one, we find that the next three verses give the problem. This book has more than one problem, this gives the first ~~pe~~ problem that he faces here. "O Lord, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! even cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save! Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance? for spoiling and violence are before me; and there are that raise up strife, and contention. Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth." Injustice, iniquity, sin, wickedness, Habakkuk says Lord, what is the ~~ans~~ answer. Here we are, the people of God, the people of Israel here, the people who should show forth God's love and God's mercy and there is injustice and there is wickedness among us. What is the answer. What is the solution. Well, God gives an answer in ~~x~~ the verses that follow. ¶ Now, it doesn't say in our English Bible, verses 2-4 what Habakkuk says to God, verses 5-11, what God answers to Habakkuk, we don't put headings like that. Those headings are not in the original. You have to infer them. In this case there is no question whatever about them, but until you take the time to read it carefully and infer them, you don't get the real understanding of it. I think it would be helpful, perhaps as a little note on the side that says This is the prophet speaking to God. This is God's answer to the prophet. The prophetic books are made up principally