

**HABAKKUK 2:4 FROM HEBREW, LXX AND GNT**  
**Galen Currah, August 2021**

The Greek New Testament follows the Septuagint, in which Habakkuk 2:4 was apparently translated from an older version of the Hebrew text. After 70 CE, the Jewish rabbis preserved a different Hebrew version, possibly because Jewish Christians had adopted Habakkuk 2:4 as a gospel proof text. The Epistle to the Hebrews inverts Habakkuk 2:4a and 4b, for emphasis.

**Habakkuk 2 ESV from Masoretic Hebrew**

**2** And the Lord answered me:

“Write the vision; make it plain on tablets,  
so he may run who reads it.

**3** For still the vision awaits its appointed time;  
it hastens to the end—it will not lie.

If it seems slow, wait for it;  
it will surely come; it will not delay.

**4** “Behold, his soul is puffed up;  
it is not upright within him,  
but the righteous shall live by his faith[fulness].

**Habakkuk 2 NETS from Septuagint Greek**

**2** And the Lord answered me and said,  
Write a vision, and clearly on a tablet,  
so that *the reader* might pursue them.

**3** For there is still a vision for an appointed time,  
and it will rise up at the end and not in vain.  
If it should tarry, wait for it,  
for when it comes it will come and not delay.

**4** If [*the reader*] draws back,  
my soul is not pleased in [*him*].  
But the just shall live by [my\*] faith[fulness].

**Hebrews 10:37-38 ESV from Greek New Testament**

**[From Isaiah 26:20]**

“Yet a little while,”

**[From Habakkuk 2:3-4]**

**37** and “the coming one will come and will not delay;  
**38** but [my\*] righteous one shall live by [my\*] faith[fulness],  
and if he shrinks back,  
my soul has no pleasure in him.”

**Key**

- [*the reader*] = masculine singular pronoun; nearest personal antecedent is “the reader”.
- [my\*] = Present or absent in some LXX and GNT manuscripts.
- faith[fulness]. The Hebrew is never used for ‘belief’, only for loyalty, whereas the Greek can be used for either.