

## 「信仰によって生きる」(ハバクク書 2 章 4 節 b)

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**ABSTRACT** D. T. Tsumura, “To Live by Faith” (Habakkuk 2:4b).

I treated Hab 2:4a thoroughly in my earlier Japanese article published in *Tojo* in 1985 (see *OTA* 9 [1986] #578) and suggested the literal translation for the whole verse:

"Behold his soul is puffed up in him and is not straight;  
but the righteous shall live in his faithfulness."

The interpretation of the second half of the verse hinges on that of the first and depends on how one understands the nature of parallelism in general and the relationship between the first half and the second of this verse in particular.

Three negative features are recognizable. They are as follows.

1) In this bicolon, the term “the righteous” is not contrasted with one such as “the wicked” or “the evil”. The opposite of “the righteous” is “his soul”, that is, the “soul” of the Chaldeans, the representatives of the evil ones.

2) The opposite of the term “to live” is not a term such as “to die” or “to perish”. In stead, the situation of the evil is explained as “being boasting and twisted”. Only the “righteous” in God’s sight shall “live”, or rather, will truly live.

3) The concept of “righteousness” in Hab. 2:4, which is uttered by God, is significantly different from Habakkuk’s understanding of the term as used in 1:4 and 1:13. The “righteous” is the one who “shall live

in his trust” in God, who will eventually come to save his people as the “God of salvation” (3:18).

God is certainly concerned with the relationship a human “soul” has with Him. Thus, to “live” is to walk faithfully before God in the present situation, trusting on him and looking forward to the final fulfillment of salvation.