

# Hebrews 11

## HABAKKUK

### Hebrews 11:32

<b>Time of Habakkuk:</b>	a. <i>Habakkuk becomes a prophet about 612 B.C.</i>
<b>The Setting:</b>	b. <i>Babylon was becoming the dominant nation and Judah would soon be under the Babylonian's control.</i>
<b>The Purpose:</b>	c. <i>God is sovereign and knows how to deal with injustice and rebellion.</i>
<b>Habakkuk account is Found:</b>	d. <i>Habakkuk 1-3</i>
<b>Weakness:</b>	e. <i>Habakkuk is impatient with God's dealings.</i>
<b>Strength:</b>	f. <i>Habakkuk realizes that God's ways are best.</i>
<b>Lessons From Habakkuk's Life:</b>	g. <i>Habakkuk learns to wait on the Lord and to live by Faith.</i>
<b>Memory Verse:</b>	h. <i>Habakkuk 2:4</i>

# **INTRODUCTION**

**Hebrews 11:32** “And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, **and of the prophets:**”

- a. The Hebrews writer set the prophets to be examples of Faith. Tonight we will look at the faith of Habakkuk. (There are a few pronunciations to his name)
- b. We do not know much about the prophet Habakkuk. He is not mentioned in any other book of the Bible.
- c. Many think that Habakkuk ministered sometime during the reign of King Johoiakim, which could have been around the year 607 B.C.
- d. Habakkuk would have witnessed the revival that had taken place in the life of Judah under King Josiah. However, the revival did not last long; once again Judah rebels against the Lord. Habakkuk also witnessed the rebellion of Judah.
- e. Habakkuk is called to prophesy the coming destruction of Judah.

*"Habakkuk was not a self-centered person concerned only with the comfort and safety of himself and his family. As a true patriot, he was deeply distressed by the moral and spiritual conditions about him. He loved his nation, and knew it was moving ever closer to the precipice of destruction by continuing to break the laws of God. Therefore two anguished questions burst forth from his lips: How long? and Why?"*

—Richard W. De Haan

In this subject (By Faith Habakkuk) we will look at four things:

- A. The Prophecy of Faith – Chapter 1
- B. The Position of Faith – Chapter 2**
- C. The Prayer of Faith – Chapter 3
- D. The Praise of Faith – Chapter 3

**Memory verse: Habakkuk 2:4** “Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.”

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# A. The Prophecy of Faith – Chapter 1

## 1. The BURDEN of Habakkuk, vs 1-4

### a. His Concern

***Habakkuk 1:1*** “*The burden which Habakkuk the prophet did see.*”

- A Prophet of God is given divine foresight, and with that revelation God gives him a message to proclaim to the people – often a message of warning, instruction, or coming judgement. A prophet of God is one that speaks for God.
- The first several verses of the prophecy given to the Prophet is a discussion between Habakkuk and the Lord.
- What Habakkuk witnessed taking place in Judah caused him to be burdened and deeply concerned.

### b. His Cry

***Habakkuk 1:2*** “*O LORD, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! even cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save!*”

- Habakkuk was so overwhelmed with the sin of Judah.
- He sees the corruption and compromise of the people of God everywhere, and because of the evil he sees, Habakkuk is distressed; so much so that he cries out to God asking why God doesn't set things straight.
- He was developing a Holy Hatred toward sin. It is spiritually healthy to have hate for sin because God hates sin.

### c. His Complaint

- Habakkuk's cry puts forth the first question:

***Habakkuk 1:3-4*** “*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. (4) Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.*”

- Habakkuk is saying something like this, “Lord, why are you allowing this to continue?”

- We might look upon this world with its injustice and violence and ask the same question: “Why doesn’t God do something?” It looks like the wicked are prospering and the righteous are suffering. (An Asaph moment)

***Psalms 73:2-3*** “But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. (3) For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

- We might look at the false teachers and how they bring in their damnable heresies and say, “Lord, when are these people going to be stopped?”

***2 Peter 2:1-3*** “But there were false prophets also among the people....(3) And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

- We might look upon our persecutors and the workers of iniquity and say, “Lord, when are you going to deal with them?”

***Revelations 6:9-10*** “And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: (10) And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?”

- We might even look around today and see the great compromise that is happening in the churches of God and say, “Lord, what is going on?”

***Revelations 3:15*** “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.”

## 2. The **BOLD** Plan of the LORD, vs 5-11

- The Lord answers Habakkuk with a bold plan.

### a. God’s Design

- God will use the wicked nation of Babylon to judge Judah.
- Habakkuk struggles to accept God’s choice of a wicked nation to judge His people.

***Habakkuk 1:5-7*** “Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvellously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you. (6) For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwellingplaces that are not theirs. They are terrible and dreadful: their judgment and their dignity shall proceed of themselves.”

## b. Babylonian's Description

- From verse 8-11 we see the description of the Babylonian army.
- The Babylonians were a strong army. (Humanly speaking)
- They were ruthless and fearless.
- They would laugh, scoff, and mock the captured kings.

***Habakkuk 1:8-10*** “Their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves: and their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from far; they shall fly as the eagle that hasteth to eat. (9) They shall come all for violence: their faces shall sup up as the east wind, and they shall gather the captivity as the sand. (10) And they shall scoff at the kings, and the princes shall be a scorn unto them: they shall deride every strong hold; for they shall heap dust, and take it.”

## c. The Deceived King

***Habakkuk 1:11*** “Then shall his mind change, and he shall pass over, and offend, imputing this his power unto his god.”

- The Chaldeans will boast that their own gods have given them the victory and scoff at the God of Israel – perhaps even dare to say, “Jehovah is not the true God.”
- By the way, Nebuchadnezzar was lifted up in pride believing that he was invincible and untouchable.

***Daniel 4:30-31*** “The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty? (31) While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.”

- Like Satan, Nebuchadnezzar was cast down.
- This is a stern and firm reminder that if anyone lifts themselves up, they will certainly be cast down.

***Matthew 23:12*** “And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.”

### 3. The BEWILDERED Prophet, vs 12-17

- Habakkuk was troubled at the fact that God would use Israel's enemies to judge them. As we can call Jonah "The Bitter Prophet", we can call Habakkuk "The Bothered Prophet".
- Habakkuk now asks the WHY questions:
- Habakkuk acknowledges the Character of the Lord.

#### a. The Lord's Divinity

***Habakkuk 1:12*** "Art thou not from everlasting, O LORD my God, mine Holy One? we shall not die. O LORD, thou hast ordained them for judgment; and, O mighty God, thou hast established them for correction."

- Yes, Judah needs to be corrected, but what about the wicked Babylonians, they are much worse than Judah!

#### b. The Lord's Discernment

- Habakkuk points out the wickedness of the Babylonians.

***Habakkuk 1:13-17*** "Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he? (14) And makest men as the fishes of the sea, as the creeping things, that have no ruler over them? (15) They take up all of them with the angle, they catch them in their net, and gather them in their drag: therefore they rejoice and are glad. (16) Therefore they sacrifice unto their net, and burn incense unto their drag; because by them their portion is fat, and their meat plenteous. (17) Shall they therefore empty their net, and not spare continually to slay the nations?"

#### c. The Lord's Decision

- With what Habakkuk knew of the Lord, he could not completely understand what was going on.
- To sum it up, Habakkuk was saying...  
"Lord, you are HOLY; Lord, you are a God of Judgment; Lord, you know evil when you see it; Lord you cannot stand to look at Wickedness."  
"Lord, Judah is doing evil things, but the Chaldeans, (Babylonians) are wicked to the core!"

***In other words,*** "How could God punish Judah by a nation that was worse than they were?"

## B. The Position of Faith – Chapter 2

- Habakkuk asks the questions to the Lord, and then goes back to his place. He watches and waits for the Lord to answer.

### 1. He WATCHED out for the Lord.

**Habakkuk 2:1** “I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved.”

- **Note:** This is where we see a clear view of Habakkuk’s Faith.
- Habakkuk knew that there was an explanation to all this.

➤ Watched with a TEACHABLE Spirit.

- From this verse we see that Habakkuk didn’t ask God these questions because he thought God was wrong or that God didn’t know what He was doing, but rather he asked it because he knew that his understanding had to be corrected.

**Proverbs 3:5-6** “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. (6) In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

*A man of God once said, “Quit telling God how to run your life.”*

### 2. HE WAITED on the Lord.

**Habakkuk 2:2-3** “And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. (3) For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.”

- The Lord told Habakkuk to write God’s answer regarding the vision of the fall Babylon. When God finishes using Babylon to discipline Judah, God will then deal the Babylonians.
- The most important thing to remember – it must be done in God’s timing.

**Psalms 37:5-13** “Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. (6) And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. (7) Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. (8) Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. (9) For evildoers shall be cut off: but

*those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. (10) For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. (11) But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. (12) The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth. (13) The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming.”*

- Habakkuk waited with a TRUSTING Spirit.
- One who trusts in the Lord waits on the Lord!
- One who waits on the Lord obeys the Lord!

***Psalm 37:34*** “*Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it.*”

***Note:*** While you wait on the Lord, continue to do what He has called you to do.

### 3. He WALKED with the Lord.

***Habakkuk 2:4*** “*Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.*”

- The proud Chaldeans trusted in themselves.
- The just (The righteous) live by the Word of God. Habakkuk lived by the Word of God as he was waiting to hear from God.

***Romans 10:17*** “*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*”

- ***Note:*** This term the “Just shall live by Faith” appears 3 times in the N/T

#### a. Positional Justification – Look upward by Faith

***Galatians 3:11*** “*But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.*”

- We are Justified – or made right with God through faith alone and not by our works.

## b. Practical Justification – Live by Faith

**Romans 1:17** “For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”

- Living by Faith for the believer should be a way of life, beginning at Salvation.
- We start by Faith and we finish by Faith!!!
- God reveals His ways to those who walk with Him by believing and obeying His Word.

## c. Pleasing God – Move forward by faith

**Hebrews 10:38** “Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.”

- Living by Faith is a way that pleases God.
- We do not have to understand everything God is doing in order for us to trust Him.
- We do not have to pull everything apart to see how it works and fits before we can trust the Lord.
- Habakkuk was a short-sighted prophet with some questions, and God reveals His will to Habakkuk little by little.
- If we are ever going to move forward with God we must believe and trust that He knows what He is doing and that He does ALL things well!

**Hebrews 11:6** “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

## 4. The WOES of the Lord.

- From verses 5-19 we see five WOES that God declares to the Babylonians.
- The Woes of the Lord upon the Babylonians will demonstrate at least two things. Firstly, God hates these specific sinful actions. Secondly, the Babylonians will soon be judged for their wickedness.

1) Filthy Greediness (Hab 2:5-8);

2) Fierce Covetousness (Hab 2:9-11);

3) Murder for gain (Hab 2:12);

4) Drunkenness (Hab 2:15-16);

5) Idolatry (Hab 2:19).

**Habakkuk 2:5-19** “Yea also, because he transgresseth by wine, he is a proud man, neither keepeth at home, who enlargeth his desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people: (6) Shall not all these take up a parable against him, and a taunting proverb against him, and say, **Woe to him** that increaseth that which is not his! how long? and to him that ladeth himself with thick clay! (7) Shall they not rise up suddenly that shall bite thee, and awake that shall vex thee, and thou shalt be for booties unto them? (8) Because thou hast spoiled many nations, all the remnant of the people shall spoil thee; because of men's blood, and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein. (9) **Woe to him** that coveteth an evil covetousness to his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of evil! (10) Thou hast consulted shame to thy house by cutting off many people, and hast sinned against thy soul. (11) For the stone shall cry out of the wall, and the beam out of the timber shall answer it. (12) **Woe to him** that buildeth a town with blood, and stablisheth a city by iniquity! (13) Behold, is it not of the LORD of hosts that the people shall labour in the very fire, and the people shall weary themselves for very vanity? (14) For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. (15) **Woe unto him** that giveth his neighbour drink, that puttest thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness! (16) Thou art filled with shame for glory: drink thou also, and let thy foreskin be uncovered: the cup of the LORD'S right hand shall be turned unto thee, and shameful spewing shall be on thy glory. (17) For the violence of Lebanon shall cover thee, and the spoil of beasts, which made them afraid, because of men's blood, and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein. (18) What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols? (19) **Woe unto him** that saith to the wood, Awake; to the dumb stone, Arise, it shall teach! Behold, it is laid over with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in the midst of it.”

## 5. A WORD of the Lord.

**Habakkuk 2:20** “But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.”

- I believe this statement by the LORD is the very thing that continues to humble Habakkuk.
- The LORD reminds Habakkuk that He is STILL Holy, God still HATES sin, and God will deal with it. Just be still before Him.
- God says, “I am in my place, you get in your place “

*(Psalm 46:10) “Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.”*

- God is in His place...God is still on the throne, we have NO reason to doubt His ruling and overruling in the affairs of nations and lives.
- Do not let the circumstances dictate your life and attitude. God is on the throne!
- Do not be discouraged and want to quit because of the corruption around us. God is on the throne!
- Do not be disheartened, the LORD is coming, and He is going to balance the Books.

*Revelation 22:12-13 “And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. (13) I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.”*

## C. The Prayer of Faith – Chapter 3

*Habakkuk 3:1 “A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet upon Shi-gio-noth.”*

- The first two chapters were a time of “Question and Answer”.
- God has answered Habakkuk, and we see the reaction and response of the prophet.
- Habakkuk is a changed man! He is praying and praising the Lord.
- Habakkuk is singing instead of sighing.
- He goes from trouble to triumph.

### 1. REVIVE thy Work

*Habakkuk 3:2 “O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years...”*

- a. **“O LORD, I have heard thy speech** = Habakkuk acknowledges the answer the Lord gives him.
- b. **Why was Habakkuk afraid?** = Habakkuk had witnessed the hand of God in time past. He knew what it would take to bring about a revival; he understood what it meant when the wrath of God is poured out. (Remember the 10 plagues in Egypt)

- It is amazing! In the beginning Habakkuk was worried about God not doing anything, but now he is overwhelmed with what God is planning to do.
- c. **Revive thy Work** = Habakkuk understood that the work he was involved in was a work of God.
- Habakkuk is not rejecting the work/plan of God, but rather he embraces it.
  - The name of Habakkuk means “Embrace” (With his request, he prays, “Remember Mercy”)

## 2. REMEMBER Mercy

**Habakkuk 3:2** “O LORD...in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.”

- **Remember Mercy** = Habakkuk’s plea for mercy proves that they deserved the judgement of God.
- As God deals with the Babylonians, He remembers Judah, and after 70 years of captivity, God restores His people.
- **Mercy is given to whom?**

**Psalm 103:8-13** “The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. (9) He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. (10) He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. (11) For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. (12) As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. (13) Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.”

**Psalm 33:18** “Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;”

- Mercy is given to those that fear the Lord, and those that fear the Lord are those that walk by Faith!

## 3. RECALLS the Past

- In Habakkuk 3:3-16 we see Habakkuk pondering the past.
- Habakkuk recalls wonderful works of the Lord done in the life of Israel.
- Habakkuk gives a poetic description of the mighty power of God.
- He recalls the mountains trembling before the Lord, and so the Babylonians would soon tremble before the Lord Jehovah God.

## D. The Praise of Faith – Chapter 3

- As we come to the conclusion of the chapter we see an extraordinary act of faith.
- It is one thing to praise the Lord in good times, but it is certainly another thing to praise the Lord in tough times.

### 1. A Personal DECISION

*Habakkuk 3:17-18* “Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: (18) Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

#### a. Yet I will rejoice in the LORD.

- This is the OT version of Philippians 4:4-5.

*Philippians 4:4-5* “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. (5) Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

- Despite the Circumstances we will worship the Lord.
- I will not be a Christian that is governed by circumstances.

#### b. I will joy in the God of my salvation.

*Baxter states, “The literal is “I will jump for joy in the Lord; I will spin around for delight in God.” Here is the joy of faith!—joy at its best with circumstances at their worst! What a victory! May it be ours!”*

*Acts 3:6-8* “Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. (7) And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. (8) And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.”

### 2. A Passionate DECLARATION

- Habakkuk reveals the secret to His triumph. Remember, Habakkuk was troubled and concerned, but now he is on the top of the mountain, and he has victorious Spirit even before victory comes: How?

**Habakkuk 3:19** *“The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.”*

- Note the 3 things Habakkuk rejoices in:

1) God's POWER – **Habakkuk 3:19** *“The LORD God is my strength,*

- Habakkuk is not basing his strength on the circumstances, but rather on the God of the circumstances.
- His hope was not placed in material things, but his hope was placed in his master.

**Psalms 3:3** *“But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.”*

2) God's PROMISE – **Habakkuk 3:19** *“...and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places.”*

- God would promise Habakkuk feet like a deer, feet that were firm and stable as he scaled the mountain top; he will not slip.
- Unmovable, unwavering, and unshakable in the face of hardship.
- This reminds me of what Paul states in Romans 8:35-39.

**Romans 8:35-39** *“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (36) As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. (37) Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. (38) For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, (39) Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

3) God's PERSON – **Habakkuk 3:19** *“Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.”*

- How can Habakkuk truly praise God in the midst of trouble? He knew the God of His Salvation!
- How can Habakkuk praise God in the midst of Judgement? Habakkuk had more than the promises deliverance. He had more than the Word of God. Habakkuk had the God of His Word; the God of His Salvation.

- From this passage we see Habakkuk grows to know more about God. He was learning more about the Holiness of God and the Heart of God.
- The problem is not with how God is doing things, the problem is in our limited understanding of Him.

## **CONCLUSION**

- The faith of Habakkuk shows us how to deal with troubled circumstances:
- Today, we see terrible and troublesome times – “Perilous Times”.

*2 Timothy 3:1-5 “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.(2) For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, (3) Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, (4) Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; (5) Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”*

*2 Timothy 3:14 “But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;”*

- What shall we do in troubled circumstances? Wait on the Lord, Trust in the Lord, Obey the Lord, and Praise the Lord!