



# HABAKKUK

A Study through the Book of

Jan 23 -  
Mar 20

Trusting  
God in  
Troubled  
Times





# TRUSTING GOD IN TROUBLED TIMES

## A STUDY

*Habakkuk*

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**January 23 - March 20**

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Written by TJ Johnson

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# HABAKKUK

A Study through the Book of

The Problem  
with Evil

Habakkuk 1:1-17

Jan 23

Trusting  
God in  
Troubled  
Times

# The Problem with Evil

Habakkuk 1:1-17

- 1 The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw.
- 2 O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,  
and you will not hear?  
Or cry to you "Violence!"  
and you will not save?
- 3 Why do you make me see iniquity,  
and why do you idly look at wrong?  
Destruction and violence are before me;  
strife and contention arise.
- 4 So the law is paralyzed,  
and justice never goes forth.  
For the wicked surround the righteous;  
so justice goes forth perverted.
- 5 "Look among the nations, and see;  
wonder and be astounded.  
For I am doing a work in your days  
that you would not believe if told.
- 6 For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans,  
that bitter and hasty nation,  
who march through the breadth of the earth,  
to seize dwellings not their own.
- 7 They are dreaded and fearsome;  
their justice and dignity go forth from themselves.
- 8 Their horses are swifter than leopards,  
more fierce than the evening wolves;  
their horsemen press proudly on.  
Their horsemen come from afar;  
they fly like an eagle swift to devour.

# The Problem with Evil

- 9 They all come for violence,  
all their faces forward.  
They gather captives like sand.
- 10 At kings they scoff,  
and at rulers they laugh.  
They laugh at every fortress,  
for they pile up earth and take it.
- 11 Then they sweep by like the wind and go on,  
guilty men, whose own might is their god!"
- 12 Are you not from everlasting,  
O Lord my God, my Holy One?  
We shall not die.
- O Lord, you have ordained them as a judgment,  
and you, O Rock, have established them for reproof.
- 13 You who are of purer eyes than to see evil  
and cannot look at wrong,  
why do you idly look at traitors  
and remain silent when the wicked swallows up  
the man more righteous than he?
- 14 You make mankind like the fish of the sea,  
like crawling things that have no ruler.
- 15 He brings all of them up with a hook;  
he drags them out with his net;  
he gathers them in his dragnet;  
so he rejoices and is glad.
- 16 Therefore he sacrifices to his net  
and makes offerings to his dragnet;  
for by them he lives in luxury,  
and his food is rich.
- 17 Is he then to keep on emptying his net  
and mercilessly killing nations forever?



# The Problem with Evil

This Sunday we begin a new series in the Old Testament book of Habakkuk. Habakkuk is a short book (three chapters) that is packed full of hard truths for us today. This week we will be covering a rather larger section, all of chapter one. In this chapter we will find that Habakkuk is angry with God. He is angry that sin is persistent and God is silent. So Habakkuk lodges two complaints and then takes his stand to wait for God's answer...already formulating his response to God's reply.

Woah! That seems a dangerous thing to do...complain to the GOD of the universe. But we will find that God doesn't strike Habakkuk dead for questioning Him, instead God engages in a dialogue to help Habakkuk make sense of a world of evil and a God of good.

Learning with you,

Pastor TJ



*For I am doing a work*

## Discussion Questions

Scan this QR code to see a short video (VPN required) on an overview of the Book of Habakkuk by The Bible Project.



The Cyrus Cylinder is an ancient clay cylinder. Biblical scholars have traditionally seen Cylinder's text as corroborative evidence of Cyrus' policy of the repatriation of the Jewish people following their Babylonian captivity.





*For I am doing a work*

## Discussion Questions

1. Read verse 1. What do you know about the Minor Prophet Habakkuk and in what circumstances was he writing the book?
2. Read verse 2. What are some examples of sin in the world that break your heart? Share specific examples with the group.
3. Read verse 3. Why do you think the Lord allows us to see iniquities (sin) in ourselves and others?
4. Read 4. What is the connection between the law and the justice described in this verse?
5. Do you see any examples in our world, country, city where the law is supposed to serve justice, but justice gets perverted instead?
6. Read verses 2 to 4 again. What type of justice was Habakkuk asking the Lord to bring?
7. Read verses 5 and 6. What does it teach us about God's justice?
8. Read verses 5 to 11 and Romans 8:28. Share an example of how God used something bad in your life for your good.



*For I am doing a work*

## Discussion Questions

9. Read verses 12 and 13. What are some reasons we might get frustrated with God and His execution of justice on sin?
10. Have you ever questioned the Lord's ability to bring justice to your situation or tried to bring justice yourself? How did it turn out?
11. Read verse 13. What is the evidence of assurance that the Lord will bring justice to everything?
12. Read verse 13 again. How is holiness connected to justice?
13. Read verses 14 to 17. Is it fair for God to use the wicked to bring justice?
14. What modern examples might we face today where God brings justice through evil?
15. Finish the study by praying for God to open our eyes to see the injustices in the world and intercede for those.



*For I am doing a work*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports





# HABAKKUK

A Study through the Book of

Living by Faith in  
in Troubled  
Times

Habakkuk 2:1-5

Jan 30

Trusting  
God in  
Troubled  
Times



# Living by Faith in Troubled Times

Habakkuk 2:1-5

1 I will take my stand at my watchpost  
and station myself on the tower,  
and look out to see what he will say to me,  
and what I will answer concerning my complaint.

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.

5 “Moreover, wine is a traitor,  
an arrogant man who is never at rest.  
His greed is as wide as Sheol;  
like death he has never enough.  
He gathers for himself all nations  
and collects as his own all peoples.”

# Living by Faith in Troubled Times

Last Sunday we dived into Habakkuk Chapter 1, looking at how Habakkuk cried out to God in the midst of trouble, but when God answered, He didn't give the answer Habakkuk was looking for, and it made him angry with God.

This week we look at Habakkuk's posture of faith. How he positioned himself to hear and believe God, even in the midst of a difficult situation, a situation where God's will didn't make sense to him.

How then are we to live by faith when we find ourselves in a world that is sinful and difficult to live in. How do we stand in faith in these times? We will find that if we listen, hear God's word, and receive correction, we can stand in faith in Him.

With you,

Brett Warren



*The righteous shall live by his faith*

## Discussion Questions

1. In what ways is the world not as it should be?
2. Read verse 1. What does the verse reveal about Habakkuk's faith?



*Watchposts were sentries stationed on a wall or in a tower to look out for and warn of dangers approaching from afar. They were employed to protect cities and vineyards, fields, or pastures.*

3. Read verse 1 again. How can you position yourself to hear God in the coming weeks?
4. Read verse 2a. Has the Lord ever answered a complaint of yours? Should we expect him to?
5. Read verse 2b. How does God's word help us in troubled times and what are some practical things we can do to "cling" to it?



*The righteous shall live by his faith*

## Discussion Questions

6. Read verse 3. Discuss how and when God brings judgment on Babylon in relation to when the promise was made. What does this teach us about waiting on God's promises?
7. What are the challenges that come up for you while waiting on God to move in troubled times?
8. Read verse 4, Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, Ephesians 2:8. What does it mean to "live by faith"?

*Scan the QR code to download the book  
"How can I live by faith" for free.*







*The righteous shall live by his faith*

### Discussion Questions

9. Read verses 4 and 5. What is the definition of the “righteous” person and what are the examples of “righteous” people in the Bible and why are they called so?
10. Read verse 4 again. What is pride and why does God oppose it so much?
11. What other things could keep us from “living by faith” in troubled times?
12. What does "living by faith" as a Christian in Beijing look like?
13. Finish the study by praying for each other to “live by faith”.



*The righteous shall live by his faith*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports



# HABAKKUK

A Study through the Book of

Woe: Greed

Habakkuk 2:6-8

Feb 6

Trusting  
God in  
Troubled  
Times

# Woe: Greed

Habakkuk 2:6-8

6 Shall not all these take up their taunt against him, with scoffing and riddles for him, and say,

“Woe to him who heaps up what is not his own—  
for how long?—  
and loads himself with pledges!”

7 Will not your debtors suddenly arise,  
and those awake who will make you tremble?  
Then you will be spoil for them.

8 Because you have plundered many nations,  
all the remnant of the peoples shall plunder you,  
for the blood of man and violence to the earth,  
to cities and all who dwell in them.

~~~



# Woe: Greed

This week we begin a series of five woes against Babylon, Judah, and ultimately the world. The first woe is an indictment against greed. We certainly live in a city full of wealth with daily reminders of the lure of possessions. In 2018, Beijing's Nominal GDP per capita was CN ¥ 140,748, ranking 1st in the country.

As you're out in the city this week, take notice of the fast cars, high fashion and opulent food. Greed is at our doorsteps. Of course, we must be careful not to equate greed with wealth. Some of the greediest people you will ever meet are also the poorest you will ever meet. And some of the most generous people you will ever meet might actually be the wealthiest. Greed is a sin that is no respecter of persons or economic status. It affects us ALL!

What's in your heart?

Join us Sunday as we hear the LORD speak to us about the greed inside of us.

Choosing generosity over greed with you,

Pastor TJ



*Woe to him who heaps up what is not his own*

## Discussion Questions

1. What was the present that you desired most and received growing up and why did you want it at the time?
2. If you are reading the ESV version of the Bible, the title of this section is "Woe to the Chaldeans". Who are the Chaldeans, and what is their role in the history of the Israelites?
3. Read verse 6. What is the definition of greed, and how did Babylon demonstrate that?



*"Pile of goods plundered from city"*  
*From The Minor Prophets J. Glen Taylor.*  
*This material may be protected by copyright.*

4. Read Proverbs 28:8 and 28:25, 1 Timothy 6:9-10, Hebrews 13:5, Matthew 6:24, 1 John 2:16. What does the Bible say about greed?



*Woe to him who heaps up what is not his own*

## Discussion Questions

5. What does greed look like today in our society, workplaces, families, and individual lives?
6. Read 1 Timothy 6:6-12 and Romans 6:10-11. How can we encourage each other to stay away from greed?
7. Read verse 7. Why would judgment come upon the Babylonians and what does it teach us about putting our security in riches?
8. Read verse 8b. Discuss the various ways greed is destructive. Who does greed affect?
9. Read v. 7b. What is the church's role in standing up for the oppressed?
10. Read verses 6 to 8 again. What is the purpose of this woe?



*Woe to him who heaps up what is not his own*

### Discussion Questions

11. Have you ever felt the Lord giving you woe? What did you do with that?
12. What are your challenges while waiting for God's woe to be accomplished?
13. Share an example of you seeing God's justice accomplished in your life, as well as something you are still waiting to be accomplished.
14. Finish the study by praying for the injustices brought about by greed that you see in the community, nation, and the world, as well as pray for your own sin and unrighteous actions. So the Lord can forgive and bring restoration.





*Woe to him who heaps up what is not his own*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports



# HABAKKUK

A Study through the Book of

Woe:  
False Security  
Habakkuk 2:9-11

Feb 13

Trusting  
God in  
Troubled  
Times

# Woe: False Security

Habakkuk 2:9-11

- 9 “Woe to him who gets evil gain for his house,  
to set his nest on high,  
to be safe from the reach of harm!
- 10 You have devised shame for your house  
by cutting off many peoples;  
you have forfeited your life.
- 11 For the stone will cry out from the wall,  
and the beam from the woodwork respond.

~~~

# Woe: False Security

One thing the past two years has taught us is that the world is more dangerous than we could possibly imagine. It is also, unfortunately, extremely unpredictable. Who could have predicted rumors of a virus in Wuhan would spread so quickly to become a world-wide pandemic? Furthermore, who could have predicted that this pandemic would go on for two years!?

The Coronavirus reminds us that we are not as in control of the world as we would like to think we are. And yet...we are slow learners! Even now, after two years of learning how vulnerable we are to the unknown of tomorrow we still stubbornly cling to the hope that we control our own future. If we are wise enough, work hard enough, live virtuously enough, then we can protect ourselves from the dangers that lurk in the world.

This was Babylon's downfall. They relied on their wisdom, strength, and ability to "set (their) nest on high, to be safe from the reach of harm!" In their pride they had forgotten that God alone controls the future and God alone is the one whom we should look to and trust completely for our tomorrow. Habakkuk 2:9-11 speaks to us today and screams, "If you place your hope in anything other than Jesus it will fail you...and great will be that fall."

Trusting in Christ alone with you,

Pastor TJ





*For the stone will cry out*

## Discussion Questions

1. What have been some shocking moments in the winter Olympics and how do they remind us of the unpredictability of life?
2. Read verse 9. What is the sin of Babylon described in this verse?
3. Read James 4:13-16. What's the connection between pride and false security?
4. What is the opposite of pride, and what are the Bible verses that encourage us against being prideful?
5. Read verse 9b again. What is the definition of arrogance? What does the Bible say about arrogance, and what is its outcome?
6. Read James 4:13-16 again. What is the modern equivalent of arrogance? How can we, as Christians, avoid it?





*For the stone will cry out*

## Discussion Questions

7. Read verse 9 again. What are the aspects of Babylon's false security mentioned in the sermon?



*A reconstruction of the blue-tiled Ishtar Gate, which was the northern entrance to Babylon.*

8. What are examples of us putting our security in the world? Have you ever experienced them failing you?

9. How would you explain to someone that a trouble-free life is not something that Bible promises us?

10. What is the root of false security?

11. Read verse 10. What does putting your security in the world result in?

12. Share examples of how the culture of false security can ruin our families, friends' circles, communities, or nations.



*For the stone will cry out*

## Discussion Questions

13. Read verse 11 and Luke 8:17. How did Babylon's securities serve as evidence against the nation?
14. Read Genesis 4:10, Joshua 24:27, Job 31:38, Habakkuk 2:11 and James 5:2-4. What do these verses have in common? How should we feel knowing there is a day of judgment coming, when we will stand before God and give an account of our lives?
15. If you look into your own life, what are the things that have the potential to witness against you if you put your security in the wrong place?
16. Read Psalm 20:7-8, Luke 19:39-40 and Hebrews 12:24, and discuss the difference between trusting in Jesus and something else.
17. As a Christian, how can you know for sure you put your security in God instead of anything else?
18. If appropriate for your group, finish the study by praying in groups of two (male with male, female with female), confess your false security to each other, and ask the Lord for forgiveness and help to put your faith in Him.



*For the stone will cry out*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports





# HABAKKUK

A Study through the Book of

Woe:  
Whose Glory?

Habakkuk 2:12-14

Feb 20

Trusting  
God in  
Troubled  
Times

# Woe: Whose Glory?

Habakkuk 2:12-14

12 “Woe to him who builds a town with blood  
and founds a city on iniquity!

13 Behold, is it not from the LORD of hosts  
that peoples labor merely for fire,  
and nations weary themselves for nothing?

14 For the earth will be filled  
with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

~~~



# Woe: Whose Glory?

The values of this world are in opposition to the values of the Kingdom of God. Babylon valued grand gardens and tall towers. They prized themselves on military might and economic exploit. And for the most part, the world looked at Babylon and agreed, this is the image of success. Oh, many hated Babylon, but that was only because THEY weren't Babylon. What we find in this week's passage is what the world looks at with wow, the LORD looks at with woe.

If we are to make the most of our life on earth, we must learn to listen to how God defines success and live every moment knowing that at the end of this life it is He whom we will stand before to give an account of how we lived.

The glories the world seeks after are fleeting. The glory the LORD promises to invite us into is eternal.

For the earth will be filled  
with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

Seeking His glory with you,

Pastor TJ



*The knowledge of the glory of the Lord*

## Discussion Questions

1. What would you want to be remembered for after you die?
2. Read Habakkuk 2:12, Daniel 4:30, and with your knowledge of world history, discuss the oppression that took place in order to build great Babylon.
3. Describe any examples from history where empires or countries (besides Babylon) were built on the ways of injustice. Why is it wrong in the eyes of the Lord?



*The Flight of the Prisoners (1896) by James Tissot;  
the exile of the Jews from Canaan to Babylon*

4. Read Habakkuk 2:12 again. How does God define success? What does the Bible say about success?



*The knowledge of the glory of the Lord*

## Discussion Questions

5. Read 1 Samuel 16:7. What modern examples of false success do you see in our cultures these days?
6. In what ways are you tempted to define success by worldly standards rather than by how God defines it?
7. Read Habakkuk 2:13 and Jeremiah 51:29, 37, 51-58. What was the ultimate outcome of Babylon's achievements?
8. What are the temptations in the world that we fall easily into when building up things that are temporal and not eternal?
9. How do you determine which actions of yours have no eternal value and which actions are storing up treasures in heaven?
10. Read 1 Corinthians 3:9-15. How does knowing that the Lord judges our motives behind our actions change your daily actions?
11. Read Habakkuk 2:14. What does Babylon represent here, and what does God promise us through the destruction of Babylon?



*The knowledge of the glory of the Lord*

### Discussion Questions

12. Read Habakkuk 2:14 again and Isaiah 11:1-9. Take some time to have people reflect on what it means to KNOW his glory or to have KNOWLEDGE of His glory.
13. Where do you see the Lord's glory and knowledge of His glory changing the world around you today?
14. What are some factors that discourage you as you are spreading the knowledge of God's glory among your community?
15. How can we, as Christians, help spread the Lord's glory on earth?
16. End the study by praying for the knowledge of God's glory spreading among the world to the ends of the earth.



*The knowledge of the glory of the Lord*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports





# HABAKKUK

A Study through the Book of

Woe:  
Temptation

Habakkuk 2:15-17

Feb 27

Trusting  
God in  
Troubled  
Times

# Woe: Temptation

Habakkuk 2: 15-17

15 “Woe to him who makes his neighbors drink—  
you pour out your wrath and make them drunk,  
in order to gaze at their nakedness!

16 You will have your fill of shame instead of glory.  
Drink, yourself, and show your uncircumcision!  
The cup in the LORD's right hand  
will come around to you,  
and utter shame will come upon your glory!

17 The violence done to Lebanon will overwhelm you,  
as will the destruction of the beasts that terrified them,  
for the blood of man and violence to the earth,  
to cities and all who dwell in them.

~~~

# Woe: Temptation

Jesus began His public ministry with the call to repent (of our sins). John the Baptist introduced Jesus as “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. In Mark, Jesus announces to the people that He has come for sinners. It is clear that Jesus believed the world (which includes you and me) had a sin problem.

Over the past several weeks we have been going through a series of “Woes.” These woes in Habakkuk are woes against sin. Habakkuk, like Jesus, had much to say about sin. Therefore, as we work our way through Habakkuk, we must have a good grasp of what sin is. The fourth Woe is God’s condemnation of Babylon for leading others into sin. This is a perfect opportunity for us to answer some basic questions on sin. What is it? Why do we do it? What should God’s response to sin be? Is there any hope for sinners? Join us Sunday as we discuss an often ignored but eternally important topic.

In Him,

Pastor TJ





1. What's something in your house you want to get rid of but can't and why?  
(Please no naming your spouse, children, or roommates!)
2. What is the definition of sin? What does the Bible say about sin?  
Scan the QR code below to watch a video about sin.





*Wee to him who makes his neighbours drink*

## Discussion Questions

3. Read Habakkuk 2:15. What was Babylon's sin, and where else in the Bible is this sin mentioned?
4. What sins do people commit today that are similar to the sins mentioned for Babylon?
5. Do you have any examples of how sin destroyed something in your or your loved one's lives?
6. Read Habakkuk 2:15-16. What are the reasons Babylon sin?
7. What are the reasons we as humans can sin?
8. Can you share a time when there was a deeper sin behind your action?
9. Read Habakkuk 2:16 again. What does the sin of Babylon eventually reveal about Babylon? What can sin reveal about us?
10. If you look at your life, what is God revealing to you about your heart through the sin in your life?





*Wee to him who makes his neighbours drink*

## Discussion Questions

11. Read Habakkuk 2:16-17. What is God's response to sin? What does the Bible say about it?
12. Read Habakkuk 2:16, Psalm 75:8, Isaiah 51:17-22, and Jeremiah 25:15. In light of Matthew 26:39, what is the way to avoid the consequences of sin?
13. If we have repented of our sins, how should we deal with our daily sin?
14. Is there any current temptation to sin that you need to confess to someone (James 5:16) or would like to have the group to pray over you?
15. What are some practical ways that help you to avoid temptations?



*Wee to him who makes his neighbours drink*

### Going Deeper

16. Read Habakkuk 2:15 again. What does the Bible say about drinking? Is drinking a sin?
17. What is your opinion about Christians and drinking?
18. How could drinking be helpful and not helpful in spreading the Gospel?
19. Finish the study by asking the Lord to reveal hidden sin in your heart and be praying through the week for the Lord to help you deal with it.



*Wee to him who makes his neighbours drink*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports



# HABAKKUK

A Study through the Book of

Woe: Idolatry

Habakkuk 2:18-20

Mar 6

Trusting  
God in  
Troubled  
Times



# Woe: Idolatry

Habakkuk 2: 18-20

18 "What profit is an idol  
when its maker has shaped it,  
a metal image, a teacher of lies?  
For its maker trusts in his own creation  
when he makes speechless idols!  
19 Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake;  
to a silent stone, Arise!  
Can this teach?  
Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver,  
and there is no breath at all in it.  
20 But the Lord is in his holy temple;  
let all the earth keep silence before him."

~~~



# Woe: Idolatry

Typically we Christians think of idols as stone statues or carved pieces of wood that primitive people bowed down to in worship. I doubt very many of us have these types of idols in our homes today that you depend upon for help. Perhaps you have a parent or a friend that has a miniature shrine set up in their home, some incense they burn or some fruit they set out for good luck, but you yourself would never stoop to worship some other god.

Unfortunately, because we think in such concrete categories, we often fail to realize that, as Calvin put it, "the human mind (heart) is, so to speak, a perpetual factory of idols." This is exactly the type of idolatry that God commands Ezekiel to preach against...idols of the heart.

As we come to the last woe in Habakkuk we are reminded that idolatry is not some primitive sin of Babylon or the faithless in Israel...this is a sin we all are faced with. Every one of us are tempted to give our allegiance to something or someone other than Christ. Fortunately for us we serve an idol slaying God.

In Him,

Pastor TJ



*Wee to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake!*

## Discussion Questions

1. What do you know about the idol worship of Babylon and Israel during the time of Habakkuk?



*“Head of the goddess Mut (one of many Babylonian gods) lying broken on ground at the location of her temple  
Manfred Näder, Gabana Studios,  
Germany”*

2. How does the Bible define idolatry?
3. Read Habakkuk 2:18. What is so attractive about idols?



*Wee to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake!*

## Discussion Questions

4. The sermon discussed how we often want to “shape” God into something He is not. Can you give examples of this and what characteristics, attributes, and ways of God we find hardest to accept?
5. What are some common idols of the heart (good gifts that we turn into ultimate gifts)?
6. Read Habakkuk 2:18a (teacher of lies). In what ways do our idols shape who we are becoming?
7. Read Habakkuk 2:18, 1 Samuel 12:21, Jeremiah 10:5, 8, 14, 15; Jeremiah 51:17-18, Isaiah 44:9. What does the Bible have to say about the effectiveness and power of idols?
8. Read Genesis 1:27, Ephesians 2:10, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Ephesians 4:24, 1 Corinthians 15:49, Galatians 5, Romans 13:14. When we worship Jesus, what is He shaping us into (what feelings, thoughts, emotions, and behaviors is He forming in us)?
9. What would keep a person from growing into the image of Christ?



*Wee to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake!*

## Discussion Questions

10. How would you advise someone who wants to become more like Christ but is struggling along the way?
11. Read Habakkuk 2:19. What is the cost of worshipping idols?
12. Read Habakkuk 2:20. Take some time to contrast God and idols.
13. Read Habakkuk 2:20, John 2:18-22, and 1 Peter 2:4-5. In what ways is Jesus the true temple mentioned in Habakkuk 2:20 and what does that mean for us today?
14. Read 1 Corinthians 10:7-14, 1 John 5:21, Colossians 3:5. How are we to treat the idols in our lives?
15. Finish the study by praying to God to continue revealing the idols in your life and soften your heart to see them.



*Wee to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake!*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports





# HABAKKUK

A Study through the Book of

The Victory  
of God

Habakkuk 3:1-16

Mar 13

Trusting  
God in  
Troubled  
Times

# The Victory of God

Habakkuk 3:1-16

1 A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, according to Shigionoth.

2 O Lord, I have heard the report of you,  
and your work, O Lord, do I fear.  
In the midst of the years revive it;  
in the midst of the years make it known;  
in wrath remember mercy.

3 God came from Teman,  
and the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah  
His splendor covered the heavens,  
and the earth was full of his praise.

4 His brightness was like the light;  
rays flashed from his hand;  
and there he veiled his power.

5 Before him went pestilence,  
and plague followed at his heels.

6 He stood and measured the earth;  
he looked and shook the nations;  
then the eternal mountains were scattered;  
the everlasting hills sank low.  
His were the everlasting ways.

# The Victory of God

7 I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction;  
the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble.

8 Was your wrath against the rivers, O Lord?

Was your anger against the rivers,  
or your indignation against the sea,  
when you rode on your horses,  
on your chariot of salvation?

9 You stripped the sheath from your bow,  
calling for many arrows. Selah  
You split the earth with rivers.

10 The mountains saw you and writhed;  
the raging waters swept on;  
the deep gave forth its voice;  
it lifted its hands on high.

11 The sun and moon stood still in their place  
at the light of your arrows as they sped,  
at the flash of your glittering spear.



# The Victory of God

12 You marched through the earth in fury;  
you threshed the nations in anger.

13 You went out for the salvation of your people,  
for the salvation of your anointed.

You crushed the head of the house of the wicked,  
laying him bare from thigh to neck. Selah

14 You pierced with his own arrows the heads of his warriors,  
who came like a whirlwind to scatter me,  
rejoicing as if to devour the poor in secret.

15 You trampled the sea with your horses,  
the surging of mighty waters.

16 I hear, and my body trembles;  
my lips quiver at the sound;  
rottenness enters into my bones;  
my legs tremble beneath me.

Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble  
to come upon people who invade us.

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# The Victory of God

In the words of the great 90's theologian MC Hammer,  
"We've got to pray just to make it today."

I wonder if you feel that today? Do you understand how important prayer is? I am not simply talking about praying to God when things go wrong...we all know that. It is not just that you need God in hard times; you need Him in good times. It is not just that you need God when bills are due; you need Him when the bills have all been paid and food overflows in your fridge.

As we come to the last chapter in Habakkuk we read these words:  
A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet.

If you have a wrong understanding of prayer then you will expect to find Habakkuk praying something like this:

"I declare in Jesus' name Babylon defeated."

"I rebuke the forces of evil working against God's people."

But in Habakkuk 3 we find a vastly different type of prayer. It teaches us much about how we should pray today. Prayer isn't only about receiving something; it's about resting IN someone. It isn't just the asking FOR something, but the adoring OF someone. It's not merely to entreat but to thank. It isn't simply for changing our circumstances, but for communing with Christ.

Learning to pray with you,

Pastor TJ





*O LORD, I have heard the report of you*

## Discussion Questions

1. Comparing Chapter 1 to Chapter 3, what is different about Habakkuk's circumstances and perspective and how can this influence how we pray when life isn't going our way?
2. Read Habakkuk 3:2 and compare it to Matthew 6:9-10, then discuss ways you can incorporate this type of perspective and petition into your daily prayer life.
3. Habakkuk asks God to, "in wrath remember mercy." Who can you be intentional about praying this for?
4. Why do we struggle with showing mercy to those who wrong us and how does this prayer empower us to be merciful to others (see Matthew 6:12)?
5. Read Habakkuk 3:3-15. What works of God is Habakkuk remembering?
6. Share with the group ways you have seen the work of God in the past. How does this encourage you to trust God in the present?
7. Read Habakkuk 3:3-15. What attributes or characteristics of God does Habakkuk mention?



*O LORD, I have heard the report of you*

## Discussion Questions

8. What are the common attributes of God that you most often recall in your own prayer life and why?
9. How does Habakkuk tactilely incorporate praise into this prayer?
10. Share with the group some tactile strategies you have used to make your prayer life more meaningful.
11. Compare v. 2a to v. 16a. What is the difference between the two fears?
12. Do you often share your personal feeling (emotions) in prayer as Habakkuk has done in v. 16? Why or why not?
13. What is it that enables Habakkuk to “quietly wait” in the midst of trouble?
14. How can we learn to quietly wait when trouble comes on us?



*O LORD, I have heard the report of you*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports





# HABAKKUK

A Study through the Book of

Give Me Jesus

Habakkuk 3:16-19

Mar 20

Trusting  
God in  
Troubled  
Times

# Give Me Jesus

Habakkuk 3:16-19

16 I hear, and my body trembles;  
my lips quiver at the sound;  
rotteness enters into my bones;  
my legs tremble beneath me.  
Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble  
to come upon people who invade us.

17 Though the fig tree should not blossom,  
nor fruit be on the vines,  
the produce of the olive fail  
and the fields yield no food,  
the flock be cut off from the fold  
and there be no herd in the stalls,

18 yet I will rejoice in the LORD;  
I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

19 GOD, the Lord, is my strength;  
he makes my feet like the deer's;  
he makes me tread on my high places.

To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments.

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# Give Me Jesus

What a journey we have been through over the past nine weeks. Habakkuk has gone from complaint to praise. Of course, as we look over our own lives these past nine weeks, we can perhaps see how important this past story is to our present lives. We have gone from a larger venue to a smaller one, suffered additional Covid setbacks, changed communication mediums, and had a host of other personal attacks, struggles, and disappointments. Hopefully Habakkuk has given us a bit of perspective on how we are to walk with the LORD when “Babylon” is allowed to descend on us.

I encourage you to take some time to re-read these three chapters in preparation for the last section. When nothing is going your way, when everything is taken away except for Jesus, will we be able to say with Habakkuk, “YET I will rejoice in the LORD.”

As we finish the book, we find that it is in the struggle that we are strengthened to ascend to the High Places...where the LORD Himself dwells in glory.

Treading on High Places with you,

Pastor TJ



*Yet I will rejoice in the LORD*

## Discussion Questions

1. Read Habakkuk 3:16 and share with the group a time you felt like Habakkuk.
2. What are things that typically bring people joy?
3. Read Habakkuk 3:17-18 and rewrite it for a modern context.
4. How is it possible to have joy like Habakkuk and Paul even when our circumstances threaten to steal our joy?
5. Can you give an example from your own life or the life of another when the joy of Jesus was present in tragedy?
6. Read Habakkuk 3:18. How can God be Habakkuk's salvation even when Babylon still destroyed Jerusalem?



*Yet I will rejoice in the LORD*

### Discussion Questions

7. In what ways have you experienced the salvation of the LORD?
8. Take some time to clearly explain Salvation in Jesus alone.
9. Read Habakkuk 3:19. In what ways do you suppose Habakkuk is weak and in need of the strength of the LORD?
10. In what ways are you weak and in need of the strength of the LORD today?
11. Give examples from the Bible when God worked through weak people.
12. Share a time when you were weak spiritually, emotionally, or physically and yet were sustained by the grace of God found in Jesus.



*Yet I will rejoice in the LORD*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

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