

## Habakkuk 1 ENCORE

- 1) Read Habakkuk 1:2-3a. How would you characterize Habakkuk's words?
  - a) Have you ever felt like God either did not hear your prayers or was not answering them?
  - b) Many Christians experience feelings of self-imposed guilt when they find themselves questioning God during their trials. Have you ever struggled with God when you thought He was not answering your prayers? How did God eventually answer your prayers?
- 2) Judah by refusing to live by God's Law was reaping moral decay as a result.
  - a) Give four examples of social corruption from Habakkuk 1:3b.
  - b) Do you see any similar evidences that God's moral law is being ignored today?
  - c) What do you think needs to be done in our culture so that God's moral law is obeyed?
- 3) In what ways are the laws of a country a reflection of the character of its people (v.4)?
- 4) What is meant by the phrase "the wicked surround the righteous" (v.4)?
- 5) Habakkuk struggled to understand God's ways (Is. 55:8, 9). What is your biggest question or struggle about the way God administers this world?
- 6) Why was Habakkuk shocked that God would use the Babylonians to be His means of chastisement?
- 7) Like many Christians today the prophet did not understand God's workings in this world. God was patiently waiting for Israel to repent while He was raising up His instrument of judgment – the Babylonians. All the while, He was teaching His servant to trust Him even when things looked out of control. God's goal is not to conquer the enemies of His people – it is to conquer the hearts of His people so they can glorify Him, both here and in eternity. God is working from the perspective of eternity to prepare the redeemed for eternity.
  - a) In what way(s) does Habakkuk's response in Hab. 2:1 demonstrate an attitude toward God that was different than his initial response (Hab. 1:2-4)?
  - b) Can you think of a time in your life when your initial response to some hard circumstance changed as you began to see the fuller picture?
  - c) What can you do to trust God more fully when it appears He is not concerned about you or willing to listen to your prayers for help?

## **Habakkuk 3 LA**

**Monday (Habakkuk 3:1)** The third chapter of Habakkuk is called a prayer. The word used could also indicate a hymn, so it is a kind of sung prayer. The word “Shigionoth” is of unknown meaning but could indicate either a day or an instrument, but most likely indicates a poetic form. The prophets often sang their prophecies (1 Chronicles 25:3). When you read the Old Testament prophetic books (From Isaiah to Micah) whenever the text in column form it indicates that this was likely sung. You may also notice that the Psalms, Proverbs and much of Job are also laid out in this manner. Why do you think the prophets often sang their prophecies?

**Tuesday (Habakkuk 3:2)** Habakkuk heard the voice of God and his (appropriate) response was to be afraid. The writer of Hebrews said “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” (Hebrews 10:31) That verse is also in the context of coming judgment. Have you noticed that everyone in the Bible who gets to see God in all (or at least a glimpse) of His glory is immediately overwhelmed by how awesome He is and how sinful they are? Now; this is an awesome verse....until this point Habakkuk had been relating to God through a series of questions (he basically couldn’t understand why God was not dealing with sin) but now he relates to God by fearful supplication. He begins to beg God for mercy.

**Wednesday (Habakkuk 3:3-5)** First God spoke and Habakkuk heard His voice, now he is describing the account of when he actually got to see God. It’s not hard to understand why Habakkuk’s mind and attitude changed; he heard the very voice of God and then saw God’s glory. Notice the things that stuck out immediately; God’s holiness, His glory – the whole earth was full of His praise, His brightness and His awesome power. In the beginning Habakkuk was questioning God’s holiness (all I see is sin all around me), God’s power (does God not see all this sin, and if He does see why doesn’t He do anything about it?) and certainly His glory, because the people had turned their backs on God yet He had not yet acted in defense of His great name. Now in seeing God all of his questions are answered.

**Thursday (Habakkuk 3:6-15)** I believe this section of Habakkuk is a prophetic vision both of near historical events but also of events that have not yet happened. He is describing some of the events of the Tribulation Period or the “Time of Jacob’s Trouble”. Many prophecies speak to events that are both near and far historically. The Tribulation period will be a terrible time to be alive; it will be a time when God’s wrath is poured out on the world and His judgment will be severe. It will be a time of great death, war, famine, disease, natural and super-natural disasters it will not be a good time to be here on Earth. But the Tribulation Period also has another side, it is the time when God again works through His people Israel. Many people will come to repentance and be saved and the Nation of Israel will again serve the Lord God.

**Friday (Habakkuk 3:16)** The visions Habakkuk saw must have been horrible to watch. He said “rotteness entered my bones.” Yet there was more to his response than just disturbing visions of God’s coming judgment, Habakkuk also trembled because he heard the very voice of God. Isaiah had a similar experience in Isaiah 6:5 when he was taken away to the throne room of God; Isaiah said “woe is me for I am undone!” Let us never forget or take for granted just how awesome and holy God is.

**Saturday (Habakkuk 3:17-19)** These verses are some of the most glorious in the Bible. What a perfect ending for the book of Habakkuk. Habakkuk had genuine concerns and he was struggling to understand the evils he saw all round him and to reconcile that with what God had revealed about Himself in the Law. He also couldn’t understand why God was taking so long to bring the promised judgment. Then we have these glorious verses of faith, trust, hope and resting in God; what happened? The prophet was allowed to see God. Whenever anyone gets to see God, their life is immediately altered forever.

**Habakkuk 2-3 Living righteously in an evil land part 2** Habakkuk was grieved by the things he saw happening in the nation of Judah. Not unlike modern America, Judean society had degraded until it was an evil and idolatrous nation. Do you ever grieve over the state of our nation? Do you cry out to God for reformation or revival? What will you do if God provides an answer you do not expect or even like to hear? Join us this Sunday as we see how the Prophet Habakkuk responded when God gave an unsettling answer to his questions.