



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

HABAKKUK 2:1-5; 3:17-19

LESSON: HABAKKUK PRAISES GOD'S FAITHFULNESS—

July 17, 2022

INTRODUCTION / SYNOPSIS:

CHAPTER 1:14-17 ¹Initially Habakkuk's complaint to God wasn't about the Babylonians. He was upset about the fact God wasn't doing anything about the wickedness of His own people. But now that he is bugged about the coming of the Babylonians to conquer them his attitude changes. He sees his people as poor, helpless fish who are being hunted in the ocean by nasty fishermen. So, he says...

LESSON: I. THE LORD'S REVELATION HABAKKUK 2:1-5

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. Habakkuk is waiting to see what God's answer will be. He says he will stand upon his watch and set upon the tower. This is similar to a lookout who awaits a coming enemy. Although, Habakkuk is not expecting an enemy, he might be reproved by God for continuing this conversation when God has already answered the first complaint. However, Habakkuk waits in the city's watchtower with anticipation (expectation) for God's answer. This shows his attitude of patience, waiting and watching for God's response to this complaint. He wanted to be in the best position to receive God's message, however it may be given. This still shows within him that God will answer (having a trust in God), even if it's not the answer he wants. It's because he has a relationship with God. And since Habakkuk is a prophet, he needed a Word for himself and for the people.

2:2 And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. Well, he waited upon God and God Answers: Even though God speaks to him, this time God says make a record of it; write it down and make it plain upon tables. In an earlier lesson, God told Jeremiah to write all the words that He (God) spoke (Jer.30:1). The message is apparently written upon clay tablets in large, legible letters and posted in the marketplace where public notices were commonly placed. When one reads it, he was to run, not in fear, but in joy, to broadcast the message throughout the land. The message was both bitter and sweet; for it dealt with both the coming Chaldean invasion (which would be bitter) and also the ultimate defeat of the Chaldeans (which would be sweet).

2:3 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 explanation of the vision is taken a step further. It pertains to an appointed time, and it will be fulfilled precisely on time, not a moment too late or too early. The vision will be absolutely true and absolutely certain of fulfillment, though there might be intervening circumstances or occurrences that might indicate otherwise. But at the end it shall speak (be fulfilled) and not lie, that the Chaldeans will be destroyed. Though it tarry, wait for it. Just as Habakkuk waited for God's answer, that's how he will wait to see the outcome, that God does not lie, and that's how we will wait to see the fulfillment of the Word pertaining to the return of the Lord Jesus

¹ <https://www.family-times.net/commentary/god-isnt-lining-up-with-expectations/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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Christ! We are to have that same assurance! It's at an appointed time! God's timing is always perfect!

2:4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith. There is a contrast of people depicted here: the prideful and the faithful. Those who are proud, presumptuous, thinking much of themselves, etc. will not survive, but are carrying seeds of destruction. But those who are righteous will live because they are faithful to God. The soul that is lifted up and puffed up is proud and is not upright; they rely in themselves, like the Babylonian nation, but the just are righteous and will live by his faith he puts in God. This is the core of God's message to and through Habakkuk. Even though God's plan will take a while to accomplish, the righteous will wait patiently for God. The difference between the two (prideful and the faithful) is the object in which they place their trust or belief in—the Chaldeans—in themselves; and the righteous—in God. The Chaldeans will die both physically and eternally; and the righteous will live eternally with God!

2:5 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: This is still in reference to the Chaldeans/Babylonians who are the proud and greedy, like death and hell. They are never satisfied, but always wanting more. Habakkuk is expressing the results of those who trust in themselves and their resources and not God. Wine and wealth are treacherous, and the proud Chaldean invader is restless and cannot stay at home. His appetite is large like that of Sheol, and his greed is like death and cannot be satisfied. He gathers to himself all nations and collects all people as if he owned them.

SUMMARY:

2:1-5 Habakkuk complained vigorously to God about the situation. God's answer to Habakkuk is the same answer He would give to us: "Be patient and I will work out My plans in My perfect timing." Writing the vision down will be assurance for many generations to come. It helps to remember that God hates sin, even more than we do and punishment will certainly come. So, don't be lifted up, walk by faith in God. The proud and greedy are like death and hell—never satisfied. God's mighty hand will always show up at the right time.

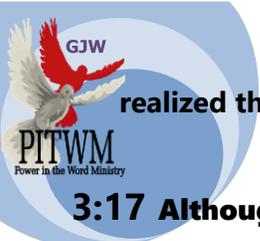
INTRODUCTION / SYNOPSIS:

2:3:1-16 reveals what happens when we stop complaining and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to us through prayer. The truth is, prayer always changes us, not God. Having had his eyes turned to God (Hab. 2:20), the prophet now responds with a prayer. It is the mountain top destination of a journey that began in a valley of distress. Habakkuk's attitude changed because He went back into God's Word and saw things through the eyes of faith and not the eyes of flesh. Habakkuk's prayer is expressed in three parts:

1. His prayer to God (3:1-2). Habakkuk is not discouraged or defeated. He knows that ultimately, the Babylonians will be destroyed, Israel will be exalted, and God's glory will fill the earth.
2. His praise of God (3:3-15). Looking back at what God had done, Habakkuk words were so elegantly and poetically spoken, that it brought praise to what God had done.
3. His trust in God (3:16-19). His complaints were replaced by confidence. His fear turns to faith. He

² <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/prayer-changes-things/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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realized that inner peace did not depend upon outward prosperity.

II. THE PROPHET'S TRUST HABAKKUK 3:17-19

3:17 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:— The enemy's invasion will be ruthless, affecting not only the population, but also the orchards, vineyards, fields, and herds. Habakkuk begins with "although", meaning "even if" the fig tree does not blossom or fruit come on the vine; the produce of the olive will fail; the field yield no food; the flock cut off from the fold; and there be no herd in the stalls, yet in the midst of suffering and loss, Habakkuk has learned he still can trust God even more so.

3:18 Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. But if he is destined to witness the devastation of the country, Habakkuk affirms that he will rejoice in the Lord, not in circumstances, but in the Lord. With that kind of trust in God, he will have joy in the God of his salvation who gives him strength.

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. Habakkuk can truly say that God is his strength, making his feet like hinds (gazelles) feet, who move with great swiftness and great surety in times of danger, seemingly oblivious to it, and making him walk upon high places. This means Habakkuk can have sure footed confidence in God, bring him safely over the heights of the mountains, even amid extreme circumstances. His feelings were not controlled by the events around him, but faith in God's ability to give him strength. When nothing makes sense, and when trouble seems more than you can bear, remember that God gives strength, surefooted confidence, able to run like a deer across rough and dangerous terrain. This note to the chief singer using stringed instruments was to be used when this passage was sung as a psalm in Temple worship.

SUMMARY:

Habakkuk gets such assurance knowing that even in the midst of Judah's devastation of vineyards, fields, and herds, he can rejoice in the Lord who is his salvation. God answered his complaints and questions because he wants His answer to be clear of His standards for His people which in the end would bring joy. The Lord is Habakkuk's strength, making his feet like hinds' feet (with great swiftness and great surety in times of danger), and the Lord will make him walk on high places. (3:17-19).

APPLICATION:

It's a surety that God answers prayer, but not in the way or the timing we expect. Don't lose the vision nor your joy while waiting.

