

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

HABAKKUK 1:1-4

Lesson 2

Habakkuk is one of the only prophets that we are introduced to, not by a calling of God on his life, but by his calling out to God. It is believed that Habakkuk, in the beginning of his ministry, saw a revival in Israel under the reign of King Josiah. His hopes for the nation had been rekindled, only to see the spiritual devastation of the nation under the next king, King Jehoiakim. So, Habakkuk, himself, was devastated. His hopes had been dashed. Israel seemed to be worse than ever. The neighboring heathen nations were prospering and Israel was declining. What's a prophet to do? Well, what any good prophet should do. He went to God. A prophet is God's spokesperson. Habakkuk needed to know what God was doing and what He was saying. So, he asked. In this week's lesson we will look at Habakkuk's entreaty of the LORD. Although it was over 2,500 years ago, you will find his cries much like your own.

DAY ONE : Review

Answer the following questions from the background lesson or the History of Israel Chart:

- a. What were the conditions in the nation of Israel when the book of Habakkuk was written?

- b. Why had God seemingly forsaken Israel and allowed their captivity so many times?

- c. What **always** happened when Israel returned to the LORD?

- d. What lessons did you learn from studying Israel's history?

Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb?

*Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you.
See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands;
Your walls are continually before Me.*

-Isaiah 49:15,16

DAYS TWO and THREE: Read Habakkuk Chapter 1

1. Chapter 1 of Habakkuk is a conversation between Habakkuk and God. As you read, note who is speaking. When does the conversation switch from Habakkuk to God?
 - a. When does the conversation switch back to Habakkuk?
2. God's initial response is not really what Habakkuk wanted to hear. Record from verse 6 what God said He was going to do.
3. The *Chaldeans* were the Babylonians. Using your observation worksheet for chapter 1, mark every reference to the *Chaldeans* and any pronoun related to them such as *their* or *they*. Now, from the words you marked, make a list of what Habakkuk reveals about the Chaldeans.

4. Describe the Chaldeans.

5. After hearing God's initial response to his cries, how does Habakkuk respond? (vs.12)

6. Think of a time when you might have felt like Habakkuk. What was your attitude?

DAY FOUR: Read Habakkuk 1:1-3

1. Habakkuk begins with the words, *The burden which the prophet Habakkuk saw*. To whom did he address his dilemma?

Challenge: The word *cry* is used twice in Habakkuk 1:2. They are two different words in Hebrew. Look up and record their definitions.

- How does understanding the meaning of the second *cry* help you to understand the intensity of Habakkuk's plight?
2. Habakkuk expressed his *burden* by asking the LORD questions. Record his questions from verses 2 and 3. Note: Although the last sentence in verse 2 does not end with a question mark, it is a question.

3. Questioning God is not new to Habakkuk or to our generation. Read through the following Psalms and record the questions asked:
 - a. Psalm 13:1,2

 - b. Psalm 74:1

 - c. Psalm 77:7-9

4. God permits us to question Him. However, if we stop with our questions and do not wait for the LORD's answers, what could be the resulting thoughts or conclusions?
 - a. Psalm 73:2

 - b. Psalm 77:2,3

DAY FIVE: Read Habakkuk 1:4

1. Record Habakkuk's conclusion after asking the questions in Habakkuk 1:2,3.

2. *The law has become paralyzed and useless, and there is no justice given in the courts. The wicked far outnumber the righteous, and justice is perverted with bribes and trickery* (Habakkuk 1:4 NLT). This modern translation causes us to see that Habakkuk's words could have been written today. Read Psalm 11:3 and record the Psalmist's statement.

Challenge: In Job 23:3, Job cried *Oh, that I knew where I might find Him, that I might come to His seat!* In the midst of Job's trial, he felt like he had lost touch with God. What do we know about coming before the LORD and God's desire to deliver us? Use Scripture to support your answer.

5. In what ways has this lesson encouraged you to come to God with your questions and fears?

*Be strong! It matters not how deep intrenched the wrong,
How hard the battle goes, the day how long;
Faint not—fight on!
Tomorrow comes the song.*
- M. Babcock

*'Call to Me, and I will answer you,
and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'*
-Jeremiah 33:3

