

# Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

## HABAKKUK 1:12-2:1

### Lesson 4

Habakkuk came to God with the cries of his heart. God responded. Habakkuk still has concerns. Habakkuk 1:12-2:1 records those concerns. This time Habakkuk takes a different approach. He began with an acknowledgment of God's character. He ended with a resolution to wait for God's response. Yet, in the middle, he continued to honestly express his questions. Habakkuk has provided for us an excellent model for approaching the LORD when we can't understand His ways.

### DAYS ONE and TWO: Read Habakkuk 1:12

1. In the previous verses of Habakkuk, God told the prophet that He was going to raise up the Chaldeans, *a bitter and hasty nation who ascribes their power to their own god*. This did not make sense to Habakkuk. He could not understand why God would use a people that really needed judgment to judge Israel. Rather than begin with what he did not know, Habakkuk began with truth. What statements did he make about God in verse 12?
  
2. Notice the word *my* which precedes *God* and *Holy One*. What does this tell you about Habakkuk's relationship with God?
  - a. How does thinking about God as *your* God, rather than simply *God*, help you in times of trouble?
  
3. According to verse 12, what does Habakkuk know will *not* happen?
  - a. The sentence *we shall not die* refers to the fact that Habakkuk knows that God will not utterly wipe out the nation of Israel. Jeremiah, who prophesied around the same time of Habakkuk confirmed this. What does God say to Israel in Jeremiah 46:27,28?
  
4. What other name does Habakkuk call God in verse 12?

- a. When you think of someone being a *rock*, what do you think about them?
5. What did Habakkuk say God had *appointed* and *marked* the Chaldeans to do?
- a. Habakkuk knew the Word of God. Therefore, he was probably familiar with Proverbs 3:11,12. What did he know about God's *correction*?
- b. Although we don't like it, there is value in *affliction*. What do the following verses from Psalm 119 say about *affliction*?
- Verse 67:
- Verse 71:
- Verse 75:
- c. What have you personally learned during times of *correction* or *affliction*?
- d. Why do you think that God sometimes has to afflict us to get our attention?

*LORD, in trouble they have visited You,  
They poured out a prayer when Your chastening was upon them.*

*- Isaiah 26:16*

**DAY THREE: Read Habakkuk 1:13**

1. *O God, You take no pleasure in wickedness; You cannot tolerate the slightest sin* (Habakkuk 1:13 NLT). Knowing the Holiness of God has confused Habakkuk. He had a hard time reconciling God's Holiness with His apparent behavior. What does it mean that God is of *purer eyes than to behold evil and cannot look on wickedness*?
  - a. How does the truth of that statement cause you to recognize your dire need for a Savior and appreciate even more deeply the sacrifice Christ paid for your sins?
  
2. One of the results of God being holy is that He cannot *behold evil* or *look on wickedness*. What are some other things that God is **not** or **cannot** do?
  
3. Record Habakkuk's question to God in verse 13.
  - a. Write Habakkuk's accusation in your own words.
  
4. Think of a time (or times) that you questioned God. What were some of the thoughts that you had?
  - a. Looking back, what are some of the thoughts that would have been more fruitful?

*Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things.*

*-Philippians 4:8*

**DAY FOUR: Read Habakkuk 1:14-15**

1. Write Habakkuk 1:14.

- a. In initially reading this verse, you may have questions as to who this verse refers to. In taking this verse in context, we can see that these men whom Habakkuk describes as *fish of the sea without a ruler* have been caught by those who *take them up with a hook*. Those doing the *catching* are probably the Chaldeans. Therefore, those being *caught* are probably the Israelites. What do you think Habakkuk might have been feeling to describe the predicament of Israelites as he did in verse 14?

- 1.) Possibly, you thought *out of control and no one taking care of them*. God reminded the Israelites before they moved into the Promised Land that He was *their God* over 200 times. Look up the following verses and record how God refers to Himself and what He has done for His people:

Leviticus 11:45

Deuteronomy 2:7

Deuteronomy 4:30,31

2. *Are we like fish to be caught and killed* (Habakkuk 1:14 NLT)? Do you sometimes feel like God is not taking care of you? What does God's Word say to us about that?
- a. Deuteronomy 31:8
- b. Psalm 37:25
- b. Psalm 37:28
- c. Isaiah 41:10
3. Describe the way God takes care of you.

*Truly my soul silently waits for God; from Him comes my salvation.  
He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense;  
I shall not be greatly moved.*

*- Psalm 62:1-2*

#### **DAY FIVE: Read Habakkuk 1:15-17**

1. Habakkuk 1:15,16 describes the Chaldeans from Habakkuk's perspective. What are these men like?

2. Because their nets have been instruments of their *catch*, they worship them (verse 16). We don't usually fall down and worship *things*. What do men sometimes do that shows that *things* have taken an improper place in their lives?
  
3. Read Deuteronomy 8:11-20 and record God's warning to Israel about not giving the glory to Him.
  - a. Now read Deuteronomy 8:18. What does God tell them to do?
  
  - b. What are we saying when we cling to things for security or take credit for things God has done?
  
4. To summarize this section of Habakkuk, the prophet is wondering: God, I don't understand. You are not doing what I think You should do with Your own people **and** You are allowing victory to a wicked people who don't belong to You. Have you ever commiserated with Habakkuk with thoughts like: Lord, I'm suffering and people that reject you are being blessed. What's the deal? How has this study so far helped you to trust God's decisions?

*...to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

*-1 Timothy 1:17*

**DAY SIX: Read Habakkuk 2:1**

1. After Habakkuk concludes his questions and objections, what does he say he will do (Habakkuk 2:1)?

- a. At this point, Habakkuk got alone and waited for God's answer. Wise man. What does Scripture teach us about the importance and wisdom of getting alone with God and waiting?

Psalm 46:10

Isaiah 40:31

- b. Describe what it means to *be still* and *wait on the LORD*?

2. What have you found to be the result of getting alone and *waiting on the LORD*?

3. Share something you have learned through the study of Habakkuk 1:12-2:1.

*...Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, and hold Your tongue when the wicked  
devours a person more righteous than he?*

*I will stand my watch ... and watch to see what He will say to me....*

*- Habakkuk 1:13 and 2:1*