

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

HABAKKUK 3:1-15

Lesson 8

Habakkuk questioned. God responded. Habakkuk questioned again. God responded again, provoking an awe from Habakkuk and a silencing of his questions. Now, in chapter three, rather than doubts and complaints, Habakkuk breaks out in a prayer of praise and acknowledgment of the power and character of God. This prayer of Habakkuk is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful psalms of the Bible. It begins in fear and trembling and closes in praise and rejoicing. May you thoroughly enjoy your study of the first part of Habakkuk's prayer as you join him in acknowledging the wonder and splendor of our God.

DAY ONE: Read Habakkuk 3

1. Habakkuk's prayer is written in a poetic form which is intensely emotional. He makes a statement, then follows it by a similar statement, which heightens the meaning or repeats the truth in another way. This chapter presents God in three aspects, as devoutly addressed, as poetically portrayed, and as triumphantly enjoyed. Read through Habakkuk 3 and record your impressions.
2. Habakkuk 3 is divided into four paragraph divisions. Read and summarize each division.

Paragraph Division	Summary/Subjects Covered
3:1-2	
3:3-7	
3:8-15	
3:16-19	

3. Now that you have read chapter 3, what title would you give it?

*Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!*

-Romans 11:33

DAY TWO: Read Habakkuk 3:1,2

1. Before we study Habakkuk's prayer, let's review the interactions that precipitated chapter 3 by answering the following questions in your own words:
 - a. What was Habakkuk's concern that he expressed in Habakkuk 1:2,3
 - b. What was God's reply? (Habakkuk 1:6)
 - c. In response to God's reply, what was Habakkuk's concern? (Habakkuk 1:13)
 - d. What was God's response to Habakkuk's second complaint? (Habakkuk 2)

2. Regardless of God's decree of judgment upon Israel, how are the *just to live*? (Habakkuk 2:4)
 - a. In light of the impending trial facing Israel, describe what it means to *live by faith*.

3. Chapter 2 closes with an exhortation. What did Habakkuk write that *all the earth should do*?
 - a. *Silence before the LORD* suggests a sense of awe, a speechlessness, an awareness that words are totally insufficient to express what one is experiencing. After this, Habakkuk writes a prayer. Habakkuk 3:1 refers to it as a *shigionoth*, which is a poem composed under strong mental emotion or of impassioned imagination. Record the initial words of Habakkuk's poem. (Habakkuk 3:2)

 - b. *...in wrath remember mercy* (Habakkuk 3:2). From the following verses, what do we know about God's *mercy*?
Psalm 86:5

Psalm 100:5

Challenge: Define *mercy* using a Strong's Concordance or Bible dictionary.

*Who would not fear You, O King of the nations? For this is Your rightful due.
For among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms,
There is none like You.*

– Jeremiah 10:7

DAY THREE: Read Habakkuk 3:3-15

1. In this section of Habakkuk, the prophet glances back over the history of Israel and reflects upon the wonderful acts of God. Using your observation worksheet for chapter 3, mark every reference to God and any pronouns related to Him such as *He, Him, You, Your* and *LORD*. Now, from what you marked, make a list of what Habakkuk 3:3-15 reveals about God. Next to each item, record the verse reference in parenthesis. The first one is done for you.

1. He came from Teman (3)

2. Summarize what this paragraph division of Habakkuk declares about God.

DAY FOUR: Read Habakkuk 3:3-7

1. *God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran...* (Habakkuk 3:2). This refers to the visible display of God's glory when He gave the law to Moses on Mount Sinai. Using Exodus 24:15-17, describe this glory.

Challenge: Describe the *glory of the LORD*.

- a. Look up John 1:14 and Hebrews 1:3. Who is the ultimate expression of God's *glory*?
 - 1.) List some other things these two verses reveal about Christ.

2. Habakkuk 3:4 speaks of what two attributes of God?
 - a. Who does Isaiah 60:19 say will one day be the *light* that replaces the sun and the moon?

 - b. God is all *powerful*. Record what Jeremiah 32:27 says about His power.
 - 1.) There is nothing that God cannot do. He is Creator and Sustainer. According to 1 Corinthians 1:18 what is *the message of the cross to those who are being saved*?

 - 2.) Explain, as you would to a new Christian, God's power to save and sustain your life.

3. In what ways does Habakkuk 3:6 speak to you regarding the power of God?
 - a. Record from Acts 17:26 what God has done. Note: *made from one blood* would be better translated as *man from one man* (Adam).

 - b. *...His ways are everlasting*. Isaiah 51:6 encourages us to *lift up our eyes to the heavens and look on the earth beneath*. From this verse, what did you discover?

- 1.) Isaiah follows this verse with an admonition to the *righteous* (Isaiah 51:7). What does this verse tell us not to *fear* or be *afraid* of?

- 2.) In what ways does knowing that the ways of God are everlasting, as opposed to the temporary things of this earth, dispel fear?

DAY FIVE: Read Habakkuk 3:8-15

1. Habakkuk interrupted his description of the LORD to ask questions in verse 8. What were they?
 - a. The implied answer to these questions is “no”. God only used the rivers and the seas as instruments of His judgments. Again, Habakkuk is referring to God’s dealings with Israel, specifically when He parted the seas as they escaped Egypt. Psalm 77:16-20 describes this event. Read this portion of Psalm 77 along with Habakkuk 3:10-15 and record your impression of God’s power over nature.

 - b. Like Habakkuk, the Psalmist reminded himself of God’s past works as an encouragement to trust Him for the future. In what ways have you found this to be effective in your life?

2. Habakkuk 3:9 records that *oaths were sworn over God’s arrows*, referring to God’s promise in Deuteronomy 32:40-42. What did God say He would do to His enemies?
 - a. What did God say He would do to the Chaldeans in Habakkuk 2?
 - 1.) As surely as God fulfilled His promises regarding the Egyptians, He fulfilled His promises regarding the demise of the Chaldeans in 539 B.C. God keeps His promises. What are some of your favorite promises in Scripture?

*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering,
for He who promised is faithful.*
-Hebrews 10:23

DAY SIX: Review Habakkuk 3:1-15

1. Habakkuk expressed his prayer to the LORD by rehearsing God's past works. Take a moment and list just a few works that God has done in your life.
2. God's past actions are expressive of His character. What do God's actions as described in this week's lesson reveal about His character?
3. What have you learned from this lesson that would be helpful to remember when you are going through a hard time?

*Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty!
Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!*
-Revelation 15:3

