

# *Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies*

## HABAKKUK 3:16-19

### Lesson 9

After an incredible rendition of the wondrous works of God, Habakkuk's song takes on a change of tempo. From a spirit of intense emotion, he now manifests a spirit of calmness and faith born of a deep spiritual experience. Habakkuk has encountered God. In chapter one, Habakkuk was in a valley of despair and frustration. In chapter two, he had climbed to the high tower to seek God's answer to his dilemma. Now, in chapter three, we see Habakkuk walking on top of the mountain. His circumstances have not changed. Yet Habakkuk himself has been transformed. May God's transforming power touch your heart as you study the remainder of Habakkuk's song.

#### **DAY ONE: Review Habakkuk 1-3**

1. "The wrestler becomes a worshipper; the sobber becomes a singer. And so will you if you learn the secret of the high tower" (Jon Courson). Habakkuk's transformation can be your transformation, because Habakkuk's God is your God. Skim over the book of Habakkuk and list the various truths you have discovered that, when applied, will take you from the valley of despair to the mountain top of rejoicing.
2. Which of the above truths is most helpful to you when you experience a difficult time? Why?

*Why am I discouraged? Why so sad?  
I will put my hope in God!  
I will praise Him again — my Savior and my God!*  
*-Psalm 43:5 NLT*

## DAY TWO: Read Habakkuk 3:16

1. Habakkuk's initial reaction to the vision, that God would use the wicked Chaldeans to judge Israel, was that of fear. According to Habakkuk 3:16 what were Habakkuk's bodily reactions to his fear?
  - a. Psalm 27:1-3
  - b. Proverbs 3:25-26
  - c. Isaiah 41:10
  - d. Hebrews 13:6
  - 1.) Why do we, as Christians, not need to be afraid?
3. The first part of Habakkuk 3:16 describes Habakkuk's initial reaction when God revealed His plan to judge Israel. Habakkuk's desire is to *rest in the day of trouble*. Considering the calamity that awaited Israel, how do you think he could *rest*?
  - a. Why can a Christian *rest* in the face of adversity?

*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

*-Matthew 11:28*

### DAY THREE: Read Habakkuk 3:17

1. Habakkuk 3:17 is a great expression of faith. Habakkuk includes all the resources of food and declares that though they all fail, he will trust in God. Remember, this was not simply a possibility. God warned Israel that this **would** happen. He not only warned them by their current prophets, He warned them way back in Deuteronomy 28:15-18. What did God say would happen to Israel if they did not obey Him?
  
2. The promises of God are yea and amen; He keeps every one. We love the promises of grace and mercy; the promises to do good in our lives. But God keeps **all** of His promises. He promises that we will reap what we sow, good or bad. Why is this important to remember?
  
3. Habakkuk focused on losing all means of food as a way of expressing the fact that he would trust God no matter what happened. What are some of the things that would most affect you if you lost them?
  - a. Using the things that concern you the most, re-write Habakkuk 3:17 in your own words.
  
4. One reason why God strikes with calamity, as we have seen in Habakkuk, is expressed in Haggai 2:17 and Jeremiah 5:3. What is it?
  - a. What is your reaction when you realize God will do whatever it takes to get His people to *return to Him*?
  
5. God is not eager to punish. Record the attitude of God's heart from Joel 2:13.

Challenge: Look up Joel 2:13 in other translations and record what it means that God *relents from doing harm* (NKJV).

## DAY FOUR: Read Habakkuk 3:18

1. Habakkuk recorded the reaction he would choose to the calamities he was facing. Write Habakkuk 3:18.
  
2. What does it mean to *rejoice in the LORD*?
  
3. *Rejoicing* is a predominant theme in the Bible. Record what the following verses say about *rejoicing*:
  - a. Psalm 5:11
  
  - b. Psalm 31:7
  
  - c. Psalm 119:162
  
  - d. Philippians 4:4
  
4. There are many names Habakkuk could have called God. There are many reasons to rejoice in Him. What does he call God in Habakkuk 3:18?
  - a. The number one reason for rejoicing is *salvation*. More verses in the Bible refer to rejoicing over salvation than for any other reason. In fact, over 90% of the verses about rejoicing and joy point to *salvation*. 2 Peter 1 refers to the godly character that a Christian should exhibit. Peter calls the one who lacks these things, *shortsighted*. According to 2 Peter 1:9, what has this person *forgotten*?
  
  - b. In what ways does an attitude of rejoicing, especially in salvation, cause a person to exhibit godly character and the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control - Galatians 5:22,23)?

Challenge: Find and record just a few verses from the Bible that reflect the writer *rejoicing in salvation*.

## DAY FIVE: Read Habakkuk 3:19

1. *Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; for the LORD God is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation* (Isaiah 12:2 NASB). Habakkuk arrived at the same conclusion Isaiah did, both knowing the adversities they were facing. What did Habakkuk declare God to be for him in Habakkuk 3:19?
  - a. Define the strength of God.
    - 1.) What does it mean to you that God is **your strength**?
  2. What did Habakkuk say that God would do for him in Habakkuk 3:19?
    - a. Describe what you think this might mean in every day language.
3. Habakkuk also agreed with David, who rejoiced in the LORD, his strength. Read Psalm 18, especially verses 1-3 and 28-36. Reflect on and record some of the other things David declared about the LORD.

*The LORD lives! Blessed be my Rock!  
Let the God of my salvation be exalted.*

*-Psalm 18:46*

## DAY SIX: Review Habakkuk 3:16-19

1. Habakkuk experienced a variety of emotions as he dialogued with the LORD regarding the fate of Israel. Describe the progression of his questions, his emotions, and his faith from the beginning of this book, to his closing remarks.
  
2. Compare the prophet's resignation in Habakkuk 3:17,18 to God's exhortation in Habakkuk 2:4 that *the just shall live by his faith*. How has Habakkuk determined to live?
  - a. What do you think prompted Habakkuk to choose to *live by his faith* and *rejoice in the LORD* regardless of his circumstances?
  
3. Record the very last two sentences of the book of Habakkuk.
  - a. Habakkuk's praise was converted to a song. What are some of your favorite songs of praise?
  
4. Describe the impact that studying the book of Habakkuk has made on your life?

*...we ...do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.*

*- Colossians 1:9-12*

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES FOR LESSON 9

### DAY ONE:

#### **Psalm 43:5**

Why am I discouraged?

Why so sad?

I will put my hope in God!

I will praise him again—  
my Savior and my God!

### DAY TWO:

#### **Psalm 27:1-2**

A Psalm of David.

The LORD *is* my light and my salvation;

Whom shall I fear?

The LORD *is* the strength of my life;

Of whom shall I be afraid? <sup>2</sup>

When the wicked came against me

To eat up my flesh,

My enemies and foes,

They stumbled and fell.

#### **Proverbs 3:25-26**

Do not be afraid of sudden terror,

Nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes; <sup>26</sup>

For the LORD will be your confidence,

And will keep your foot from being caught.

#### **Isaiah 41:10**

Fear not, for I *am* with you;

Be not dismayed, for I *am* your God.

I will strengthen you,

Yes, I will help you,

I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

**Hebrews 13:6** So we may boldly say:

*"The LORD is my helper;*

*I will not fear.*

*What can man do to me?"*

**Matthew 11:28** Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

### DAY THREE:

**Deut. 28:15-18** "But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: <sup>16</sup>Cursed *shall you be* in the city, and cursed *shall you be* in the country. <sup>17</sup>Cursed *shall be* your basket and your kneading bowl. <sup>18</sup>Cursed *shall be* the fruit of your body and the produce of your land, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks.

**Haggai 2:17** I struck you with blight and mildew and hail in all the labors of your hands; yet you did not *turn* to Me,' says the LORD.

**Jeremiah 5:3**

O LORD, *are* not Your eyes on the truth?  
You have stricken them,  
But they have not grieved;  
You have consumed them,  
But they have refused to receive correction.  
They have made their faces harder than rock;  
They have refused to return.

**Joel 2:13**

So rend your heart, and not your garments;  
Return to the LORD your God,  
For He *is* gracious and merciful,  
Slow to anger, and of great kindness;  
And He relents from doing harm.

**DAY FOUR:**

**Psalms 5:11**

But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You;  
Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them;  
Let those also who love Your name  
Be joyful in You.

**Psalms 31:7**

I will be glad and rejoice in Your mercy,  
For You have considered my trouble;  
You have known my soul in adversities,

**Psalms 119:162**

I rejoice at Your word  
As one who finds great treasure.

**Philip. 4:4** Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

**1 Peter 1:9** receiving the end of your faith--the salvation of *your* souls.

**DAY FIVE:**

**Psalms 18:1-3**

I will love You, O LORD, my strength. <sup>2</sup>  
The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;  
My God, my strength, in whom I will trust;  
My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. <sup>3</sup>  
I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised;  
So shall I be saved from my enemies.



**Psalm 18:28-36**

For You will light my lamp;  
The LORD my God will enlighten my darkness. <sup>29</sup>  
For by You I can run against a troop,  
By my God I can leap over a wall. <sup>30</sup>  
*As for* God, His way *is* perfect;  
The word of the LORD is proven;  
He *is* a shield to all who trust in Him.

<sup>31</sup>  
For who *is* God, except the LORD?  
And who *is* a rock, except our God? <sup>32</sup>  
*It is* God who arms me with strength,  
And makes my way perfect. <sup>33</sup>  
He makes my feet like the *feet of* deer,  
And sets me on my high places. <sup>34</sup>  
He teaches my hands to make war,  
So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

<sup>35</sup>  
You have also given me the shield of Your salvation;  
Your right hand has held me up,  
Your gentleness has made me great. <sup>36</sup>  
You enlarged my path under me,  
So my feet did not slip.

**Psalm 18:46**

The LORD lives!  
Blessed *be* my Rock!  
Let the God of my salvation be exalted.

**DAY SIX:**

**Col. 1:9-12** For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; <sup>10</sup>that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; <sup>11</sup>strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; <sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.