

Gleanings of Grace

Habakkuk 3

Lesson 40

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 Habakkuk's prayer as you join him in acknowledging the wonder and splendor of our God.

OBSERVATION: Habakkuk 3

1. Read Habakkuk 3 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns/titles that refer to *LORD*.
Key Words: *LORD* and *though/nor*
3. The contrasting word *yet* is crucial to this chapter. It is used in Habakkuk 3:18. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted.

Background:

1. Habakkuk begins this book pronouncing not only the vision God had given him, but that this vision was a *burden* to him. (see Habakkuk 1:1) The Babylonians, who were known to be much more evil than those in Israel, were about to invade and capture God's people. Thus the question, why would God allow this? Chapter 1 includes several questions that Habakkuk asked God. What were they?

verse 2

verse 3

verse 12

verse 13

verse 17

- a. Although the invasion had not yet happened, Habakkuk knew of its certainty. God was not using Habakkuk to warn the people. This book is Habakkuk's personal reflections regarding the coming atrocities. What are some of the questions you tend to ask, before getting the LORD's perspective, when you are experiencing a difficult trial?
2. God responded to Habakkuk's first questions in Habakkuk 1:5-11. Record a few things that He said about the Babylonians (*Chaldeans*).
3. God's words about the invading army were not words of comfort. In spite of the terror that was just around the corner for Israel, how did God say the *just should live* in Habakkuk 2:4?
 - a. What do you think God is looking for from His people in times of afflictions?

*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

Read Habakkuk 3:1-7 - Habakkuk's Prayer

1. After questioning the LORD, Habakkuk broke into a prayer in chapter 3. 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)

a. *...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

1.) Define your understanding of God's *mercy*.

2. Habakkuk followed his pleas for mercy by rehearsing some of the wonderful acts of God. Using Habakkuk 3:3-7, list some of the things he wrote.

a. Why is it advantageous to remind ourselves of the ways of God?

1.) What reminders do you often use?

3. *God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran* (Habakkuk 3:3). 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.

4. Habakkuk 3:4 speaks of which two attributes of God?

a. In what ways does Habakkuk 3:6 speak to you regarding the *power* of God?

1.) *His ways are everlasting*. What does that personally mean to you?

Read Habakkuk 3:8-15 - Reflection of God's Wonders Continued

1. Habakkuk interrupted his description of the LORD to ask questions in verse 8. 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.
 - a. 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 3:12,13?
 - 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?

Read Habakkuk 3:16 - Initial Reaction to Impending Affliction

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 physical reactions to his fear?
 - a. If Habakkuk rehearsed his fears to you, what would you say to him?

Read Habakkuk 3:17-19 – Yet, I will

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. 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 most, re-write Habakkuk 3:17 in your own words.

3. Habakkuk recorded the reaction he would choose to the calamities he was facing. Write Habakkuk 3:18.
 - a. What does it mean to *rejoice in the LORD*?

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. In what ways does an attitude of rejoicing cause a person to exhibit godly character and the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. - Galatians 5:22,23)?

5. *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*?

6. What did Habakkuk say that God would do for him in Habakkuk 3:19?

a. Describe what you think this might mean in everyday language.

Review Habakkuk 3

1. 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?

2. What did you glean from Habakkuk's prayer?

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

- Revelation 15:3

Observation Worksheet

Habakkuk 3

A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, on Shigionoth. ²O LORD, I have heard Your speech and was afraid; O LORD, revive Your work in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy. ³God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise. ⁴His brightness was like the light; He had rays flashing from His hand, and there His power was hidden. ⁵Before Him went pestilence, and fever followed at His feet. ⁶He stood and measured the earth; He looked and startled the nations. And the everlasting mountains were scattered, the perpetual hills bowed. His ways are everlasting. ⁷I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction; the curtains of the land of Midian trembled. ⁸O LORD, were You displeased with the rivers, was Your anger against the rivers, was Your wrath against the sea, that You rode on Your horses, Your chariots of salvation? ⁹Your bow was made quite ready; oaths were sworn over Your arrows. Selah You divided the earth with rivers. ¹⁰The mountains saw You and trembled; the overflowing of the water passed by. The deep uttered its voice, and lifted its hands on high. ¹¹The sun and moon stood still in their habitation; at the light of Your arrows they went, at the shining of Your glittering spear. ¹²You marched through the land in indignation; You trampled the nations in anger. ¹³You went forth for the salvation of Your people, for salvation with Your Anointed. You struck the head from the house of the wicked, by laying bare from foundation to neck. Selah ¹⁴You thrust through with his own arrows the head of his villages. They came out like a whirlwind to scatter me; their rejoicing was like feasting on the poor in secret. ¹⁵You walked through the sea with Your horses, through the heap of great waters. ¹⁶When I heard, my body trembled; my lips quivered at the voice; rottenness entered my bones; and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble. When he comes up to the people, he will invade them with his troops. ¹⁷Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls-- ¹⁸Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. ¹⁹The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, and He will make me walk on my high hills. To the Chief Musician. With my stringed instruments.