

Your Notes

What will bring us to praying in line with God's will, His ways, His timing, so we accept *whatever* He does, *whenever* He does it?

God will destroy the enemy and save His people. His **character, His words, and His work in the past** prove it.

:1-2 HABAKKUK PRAYS FOR YAHWEH'S WORK TO BE REVIVED AND HIS MERCY TO BE REMEMBERED.

Habakkuk began the book with a cry for **God's judgment**; he ends with a plea for **God's mercy**.

:3-15 HABAKKUK REVIEWS GOD'S POWER AND DELIVERANCE IN ISRAEL'S PAST.

Habakkuk focuses on **who God is** in :3-7, then on **what God has done in the past** in :8-15.

Everything changes when **God's on the scene**. "Look out, Judah! Tremble, Chaldeans! *This* is who God is!" No wonder Habakkuk stood in awe!

This One who had judged and delivered in the past **would do it again**. "Yahweh, You will judge Your enemies. You will deliver Your people. Past history proves it. It is good to look back at Your work. **Your actions provoke** awe and wonder and trembling and rejoicing."

What an encouraging passage for those of us who have misgivings about God's lack of action or the way He's carrying out His plans. What an encouraging passage for those of us who think our family situation or our national situation or our world situation is absolutely hopeless. We know the God who has acted, who is acting, and who will act. God will give life to those who trust Him. God will punish sin. He is ruling over the proceedings of individuals and nations. Get to know Him, the Biblical God.

Know who He is. Know His words. Know what He has done in the past. Only when we have come to know Him, what He's about, and what He has done in the past, can we come to the point of praying, "Your will be done. In wrath remember mercy."

FOR NEXT WEEK: Please read Habakkuk 3:16-19. When Habakkuk realized who God was and what He was going to do, how did he respond in :16? In :17-18? In :19? What are the major lessons you have learned from this OT prophet? How can you practically use them in your everyday life?

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What will bring us to praying in line with God's will, His ways, His timing, so we accept whatever He does, whenever He does it? Tough decisions, but as Christians, we are never to stop remembering and praying!

Why do we sometimes not trust Him? Perhaps it's because we don't know Him or His words very well, or we don't know what He's done in the past. Habakkuk has received God's clear answers. "In terms of the sins of My people, I'm raising up the Chaldeans to discipline Judah. In terms of Me using an unholy instrument like the Chaldeans; trust Me. I'll deal with the prideful Chaldeans. Woe to them! Habakkuk, you walk by faith!", the theme of the book.

Habakkuk responds to God's answers by praying a prayer and writing a song, based on God's actions in the past with Israel. GOD WILL DESTROY THE ENEMY AND SAVE HIS PEOPLE. HIS CHARACTER, HIS WORDS, AND HIS WORK IN THE PAST PROVE IT.

3:1-2 :1 A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, according to Shigionoth. :2 LORD, I have heard the report about You and I fear [NLT I have heard all about you, LORD. I am filled with awe by your amazing works.]. O LORD, revive Your work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy.

READ :1-2. HABAKKUK PRAYS FOR YAHWEH'S WORK TO BE REVIVED AND HIS MERCY TO BE REMEMBERED. **Shigionoth**—to reel with emotion. READ **IS. 46:8-10**. Even emotional, when we remember and pray, we find rest for our souls; we find peace in acceptance of God's plan. He wraps us in His reassuring arms.

:1 READ. Yes, a prayer, and a psalm to be sung with instruments. Habakkuk is Yahweh's spokesman to the Judean people, and he prays because he has heard and believed God's words. When he took his eyes off himself and the two groups and placed them on the Lord, he broke out in prayer and song.

:2 "Yahweh, I've gotten to know You better by Your words, I'm now aware of what You're going to do. I fear!"—both a sense of awe in the presence of God, 'You're awesome!', and there's also the sense of fear as to what is going to happen (later he trembles!). "O Yahweh, (1) revive Your work, bring it back to life and even create it if it's best." No longer does he doubt the wisdom or justice of God's actions. He knows Yahweh's work is right, even if it passes beyond his understanding. "Your way, not mine, however hard it is. Do it in the midst of the years. Whatever Your time, make Your work known."

(2) "But please, in wrath remember mercy." HAB. BEGAN THE BOOK WITH A CRY FOR GOD'S JUDGMENT; HE ENDS WITH A PLEA FOR GOD'S MERCY. "Yes, punish the guilty but please remember that mercy is part of Your character too." **Ex. 34:6-7a**

In **:3-15 HABAKKUK REVIEWS GOD'S POWER AND DELIVERANCE IN ISRAEL'S PAST**. The prophet now pictures the vision which moved him to pray as he did. First, HABAKKUK FOCUSES ON WHO GOD IS IN :3-7, THEN ON WHAT GOD HAS DONE IN THE PAST IN :8-15. He remembers Israel's deliverance out of Egypt, particularly the crossings of the Red Sea and the Jordan River, the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai, and the conquest of the land of Canaan. Present tenses.

3:3-7 :3 God comes from Teman, And the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah. His splendor covers the heavens, And the earth is full of His praise. **:4** His radiance is like the sunlight; He has rays flashing from His hand, and there is the hiding of His power. **:5** Before Him goes pestilence, and plague comes after Him. **:6** He stood and surveyed the earth; He looked and startled the nations. Yes, the perpetual mountains were shattered, the ancient hills collapsed. His ways are everlasting. **:7** I saw the tents of Cushan under distress, the tent curtains of the land of Midian were trembling.

:3-7 READ. I see God, the Holy One, moving across the deserts from Teman and Mount Paran. Selah. His brilliant splendor fills the heavens, and the earth is filled with His praise. (NLT) We have God depicted coming as a mighty warrior. He is the Holy One who moves in justice against all sin and evil. Selah! Think of what's been said! God is the answer to all your questions.

He comes from the area of Mount Sinai where God led the Israelites after their exodus from Egypt. It was there He gave His Law. His splendor fills the heavens. The earth is full of His praise. Everyone/thing focus on Him!

:4 His radiance is like the sunlight; rays of brilliant light flash from His hands. He veils His awesome power. (NLT) His radiance shines like the noonday sun, the physical manifestation of His presence is like intense fire. Rays, beams of light, streaming from His hand, like sunrise before you see the sun, maybe lightning flashes. Veiled, lest it consume its beholders.

:5 Pestilence marches before Him; plague follows close behind. (NLT) God divinely punished evil—both with the 10 plagues against the Egyptians (Ex. 7-12), and the plague against Israel in the wilderness (Num. 11:33).

:6-7 When He stops, the earth shakes. When He looks, the nations tremble. He shatters the everlasting mountains and levels the eternal hills. But His power is not diminished in the least! I see the peoples of Cushan and Midian trembling in terror. (NLT) You can see God, surveying the earth with His just eyes. He sees the U.S., South America, Africa, the Middle-East, China, etc.!

He looks and startles the nations, causing them to shake (leap in terror). You see those mountains that have always been there? They were shattered (broken, shaken to pieces, smashed to bits). Those ancient hills? They were leveled, crumbled into dust. God's ways alone are everlasting.

Neighboring nations like Cushan and Midian were disturbed. This awesome revelation of God! "Here comes God! He's done it before with Israel; He's coming again! EVERYTHING CHANGES WHEN GOD'S ON THE SCENE. "LOOK OUT, JUDAH! TREMBLE, CHALDEANS! *THIS IS WHO GOD IS!*" NO WONDER HABAKKUK STOOD IN AWE!

3:8-15 :8 Did the LORD rage against the rivers, Or was Your anger against the rivers, Or was Your wrath against the sea, That You rode on Your horses, On Your chariots of salvation? **:9** Your bow was made bare, The rods of chastisement were sworn. Selah. You cleaved the earth with rivers. **:10** The mountains saw You and quaked; The downpour of waters swept by. The deep uttered forth its voice, It lifted high its hands. **:11** Sun and moon stood in their places; They went away at the light of Your arrows, At the radiance of Your gleaming spear. **:12** In indignation You marched through the earth; In anger You trampled the nations. **:13** You went forth for the salvation of Your people. For the salvation of Your anointed. You struck the head of the house of the evil To lay him open from thigh to neck. Selah. **:14** You pierced with his own spears The head of his throngs. They stormed in to scatter us; Their exultation was like those Who devour the oppressed in secret. **:15** You trampled on the sea with Your horses, On the surge of many waters.

READ :8-15. He's coming to destroy His enemies and save His people.

:8 Was it in anger, Yahweh, that You struck the rivers and parted the sea? Were You displeased with them? No, You were sending Your chariots of salvation! (NLT) God parted the Red Sea so the Israelites could escape the chasing Egyptian army (Ex. 14:15-31). God stopped the Jordan River so the Israelites could cross over on dry ground into the land of Canaan (Josh. 3:15-17).

Was He angry with the rivers and sea? No, He merely opened them up, using them as a tool, just as He'd use the Chaldeans. He came to deliver, save.

:9 Your bow was removed from its sheath, to be used until it had finished its work. Rods—staffs or arrows for punishment. Selah! Wake up, think about that! **You split open the earth with flowing rivers!** Rivers were like great slices down through the earth, either through the seas overflowing or thunderstorms.

:10 The mountains watched and trembled. Onward swept the raging waters. The mighty deep cried out, lifting its hands to Yahweh. (NLT) The tremendous upheaval in nature: mountains, waters. Concerned mountains trembled (whirled, danced, writhed). Mount Sinai quaked and the children of Israel were so frightened they didn't want to come near it. The waters swept by. All nature is responding to God's coming and His work.

:11 The lofty sun and moon began to fade, obscured by brilliance from Your arrows and the flashing of Your glittering spear. (NLT) The sun stood still when Joshua and the Israelites were fighting in Gibeon (Josh. 10:12-13).

:12 In Your intense anger You marched through the earth. Because of sin, You trampled the nations, implying violent crushing.

:13 READ. God's purpose was twofold—to crush wickedness and deliver His own. The Lord can be counted on to save His people, whether Moses and Israel or Habakkuk and the righteous. His people will be delivered. Evil will be punished. Yahweh will keep His word. Selah—Wake up, think about that!

:14 With their own weapons, You destroyed those who rushed out like a whirlwind, thinking Israel would be easy prey. (NLT) Another reference to the destruction of Egypt in the Red Sea. The enemy's spear or weapons were turned against himself. The Egyptians thought the Israelites would be easy prey. They stormed out to scatter them, but they were the ones who were destroyed.

:15 You trampled the sea with Your horses, and the mighty waters piled high. (NLT) God is pictured as if He Himself had trampled the Red Sea.

What a vision of God and His past acts. The deliverance from the people of Egypt, the dividing of the Red Sea, God's appearance at Mount Sinai, the dividing of the Jordan River, and the conquest of the land of Canaan were all facts. And THIS ONE WHO HAD JUDGED AND DELIVERED IN THE PAST **WOULD DO IT AGAIN**.

And we today are in a position to see how everything that God revealed to Habakkuk was literally fulfilled. Within 20 years Judah was judged and corrected; they were either killed or enslaved, the captives taken to Babylon. The Chaldeans were used by Yahweh as His divine instrument of discipline.

But within 70 years, the five woes against the prideful Chaldeans for their aggression, greed, coveting, cruelty, injustice, violence, inhumanity, and idolatry were carried out by God. The Chaldeans were destroyed, just as they had destroyed others. And, God did save His own, bringing a trusting remnant of Judah back to Jerusalem (under Zerubbabel 536 B.C.).

"YAHWEH, YOU WILL JUDGE YOUR ENEMIES. YOU WILL DELIVER YOUR PEOPLE. PAST HISTORY PROVES IT. IT IS GOOD TO LOOK BACK AT YOUR WORK. **YOUR ACTIONS PROVOKE** AWE AND WONDER AND TREMBLING AND REJOICING." "Let us realize You keep Your promises. We are to trust: You, the God of history. The God who acts in judgment and mercy. The God who is present in our everyday lives."

The Judge of all the earth will do right! Yahweh is in His heavens, let all the earth (and us) trust Him and be silent before Him. He knows what He's about!

WHAT AN ENCOURAGING PASSAGE FOR THOSE OF US WHO HAVE MISGIVINGS ABOUT GOD'S LACK OF ACTION OR THE WAY HE'S CARRYING OUT HIS PLANS. WHAT AN ENCOURAGING PASSAGE FOR THOSE OF US WHO THINK OUR FAMILY SITUATION OR OUR NATIONAL SITUATION OR OUR WORLD SITUATION IS ABSOLUTELY HOPELESS. WE KNOW THE GOD WHO HAS ACTED, WHO IS ACTING, AND WHO WILL ACT. GOD WILL GIVE LIFE TO THOSE WHO TRUST HIM. GOD WILL PUNISH SIN. HE IS RULING OVER THE PROCEEDINGS OF INDIVIDUALS AND NATIONS. GET TO KNOW HIM, THE BIBLICAL GOD.

KNOW WHO HE IS. KNOW HIS WORDS. KNOW WHAT HE HAS DONE IN THE PAST. ONLY WHEN WE HAVE COME TO KNOW HIM, WHAT HE'S ABOUT, AND WHAT HE HAS DONE IN THE PAST, CAN WE COME TO THE POINT OF PRAYING, "YOUR WILL BE DONE. IN WRATH REMEMBER MERCY."

Let's close by reading 3:16-19. Prayer time.

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