



Bible Books Chapter by Chapter Series

HABAKKUK

Habakkuk 2:14 "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

We know only a little about the prophet Habakkuk. This book was most likely written between 625 and 600 B.C. right before Judah was carried into captivity. It is a conversation between the prophet Habakkuk and the Lord. It gives us a lot of insight into how God's mind works. You have to read carefully to understand when God is speaking and when the prophet is speaking.

The entire book is Hebrew poetry so you should expect parallelism and figurative language.

The book starts out with a prophecy of doom but the tone becomes better later with these gems:

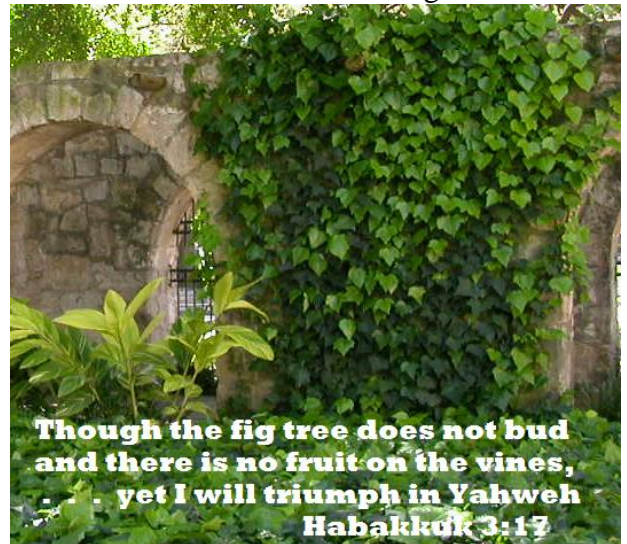
Habakkuk 2:4 "... the righteous will live by his faith."

Habakkuk 2:14 "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

Habakkuk 2:20 "But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him."

Habakkuk 3:17-18 " Though the fig tree should not blossom

And there be no fruit on the vines,
Though the yield of the olive should fail
And the fields produce no food,
Though the flock should be cut off from the fold
And there be no cattle in the stalls,
Yet I will exult in the Lord,
I will rejoice in the God of my salvation."



Suggested methodology for each lesson:

1. Fellowship
2. Take prayer requests
3. Pray
4. Read the lesson's chapter aloud from the Bible
5. Answer and briefly discuss the "fill in the blank" questions. Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer.
6. On the final "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. This will give the Holy Spirit a time to speak.
7. Discuss your Think & Pray answers. Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer is just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.
8. Close in prayer
9. Fellowship

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called "For Further Thought"

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Chaldean Doom - Habakkuk Chapter 1

Please read Habakkuk chapter 1 and answer the following questions:

[1A] Habakkuk 1:1-3 What does he see that he does not want to see?

[1B] Habakkuk 1:4 What is ignored? _____

[1C] Habakkuk 1:5 Between verse 4 and 5 the speaker changes from Habakkuk to Who? _____

[1D] Habakkuk 1:6 Who is God raising up? _____

[1E] Habakkuk 1:7-8 Where do the Chaldeans get their authority? _____

[1F] Habakkuk 1:9-10 What do the Chaldeans gather like sand? _____

[1G] Habakkuk 1:11 Those will be held guilty whose god is what? _____

[1H] Habakkuk 1:11-12 The speaker changes again from the Lord to Who? _____

[1I] Habakkuk 1:13-14 What does the prophet say God has made like the fish of the sea? _____

[1J] Habakkuk 1:15-17 They burn incense to whom? _____

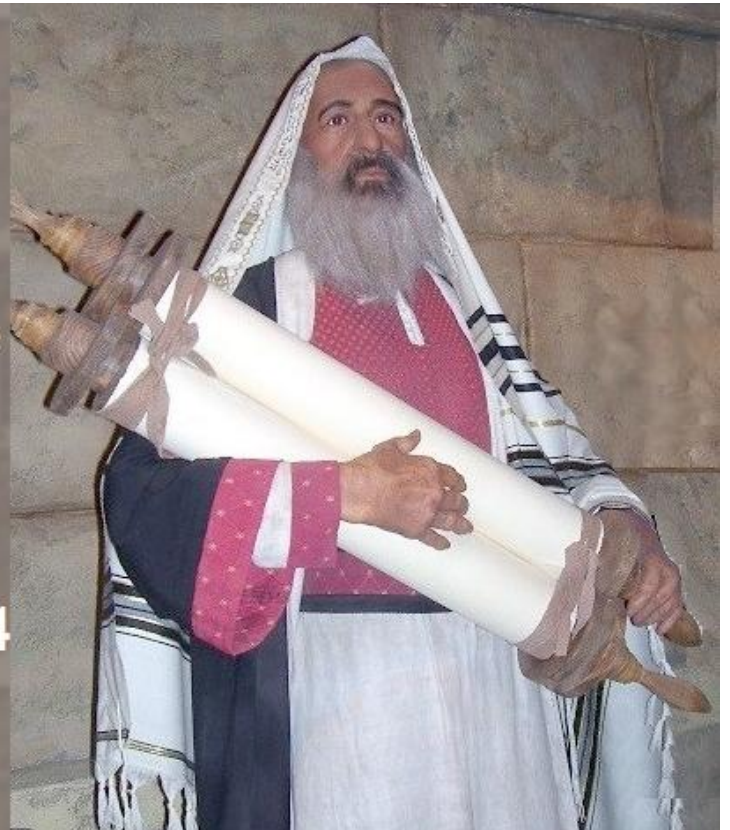
[1K] Read Habakkuk 1:2. Do you ever feel like God is not listening? When? What do you do about it?

Think & Pray _____

This is why the law is ineffective and justice never emerges. For the wicked restrict the righteous; therefore, justice comes out perverted.

Habakkuk 1:4

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Chaldean Doom - Habakkuk Chapter 1

- [1A] Habakkuk 1:1-3 What does he see that he does not want to see?
Iniquity, wickedness, destruction, violence, strife and contention
- [1B] Habakkuk 1:4 What is ignored? The Law
- [1C] Habakkuk 1:5 Between verse 4 and 5 the speaker changes from Habakkuk to Who? The Lord
- [1D] Habakkuk 1:6 Who is God raising up? The Chaldeans Chaldeans are a nation of people from
Babylonia or Mesopotamia (Modern day Iraq)
- [1E] Habakkuk 1:7-8 Where do the Chaldeans get their authority? Themselves
- [1F] Habakkuk 1:9-10 What do the Chaldeans gather like sand? Captives
- [1G] Habakkuk 1:11 Those will be held guilty whose god is what? Their own strength
- [1H] Habakkuk 1:11-12 The speaker changes again from the Lord to Who? Habakkuk
- [1I] Habakkuk 1:13-14 What does the prophet say God has made like the fish of the sea? Men
- [1J] Habakkuk 1:15-17 They burn incense to whom? Their fishing net

[1K] There are many places in the Old Testament where the Old Testament heroes cry out thinking God is not listening, but we can see from our place in the comfortable future that God was with them the whole time. We just need to remember that God is with us, just the same as He was with them.

For further thought:

- (1L) Thinking about Habakkuk 1:11 When we take credit for our accomplishments is that worshipping God or our own strength?
- (1m) Compare Habakkuk 1:14-17 with Matthew 4:18-22. In both passages men are fishing for men. What else is the same and what is different?
- (1n) In Habakkuk 1:16 they worship their tools. Since they are not really catching fish, what are those tools and how do you know?
- (1o) Thinking about Habakkuk 1:7: Where do you get your authority for what you do? If you exceed your authority, what happens?
- (1p) Thinking about Habakkuk 1:1: It is Hebrew poetry, so "How long, O Lord, will I call for help, and You will not hear?" and "I cry out to You, 'Violence!' Yet You do not save," are meant to convey the same meaning. (That is the nature of Hebrew poetry.) At first glance it seems to be only a complaint. However, in my opinion, it is also a praise. It implies that if God hears He will act. Do you agree? Why or why not?
- (1q) If someone asked you what Habakkuk chapter 1 was about what would you tell them?
- (1r) What did you learn about Habakkuk chapter 1 that you would like to remember?
- (1s) What verse or passage from Habakkuk chapter 1 would be best to memorize? Why?

Things to Come - Habakkuk Chapter 2

Please read Habakkuk chapter 2 and answer the following questions:

[2A] Habakkuk 2:1 What does the prophet do when God does not answer what he said in chapter 1 right away? _____

[2B] Habakkuk 2:2-3 What did the Lord tell the prophet to do with the vision? _____

[2C] Habakkuk 2:4 How will the righteous live? _____

[2D] Habakkuk 2:5 Who does wine betray? _____

[2E] Habakkuk 2:6-7 What happens to someone who lives on borrowed money? _____

[2F] Habakkuk 2:8 Why will they be looted? _____

[2G] Habakkuk 2:9-11 Who are they sinning against? _____

[2H] Habakkuk 2:12-14 What will the world be filled with as the water covers the sea? _____

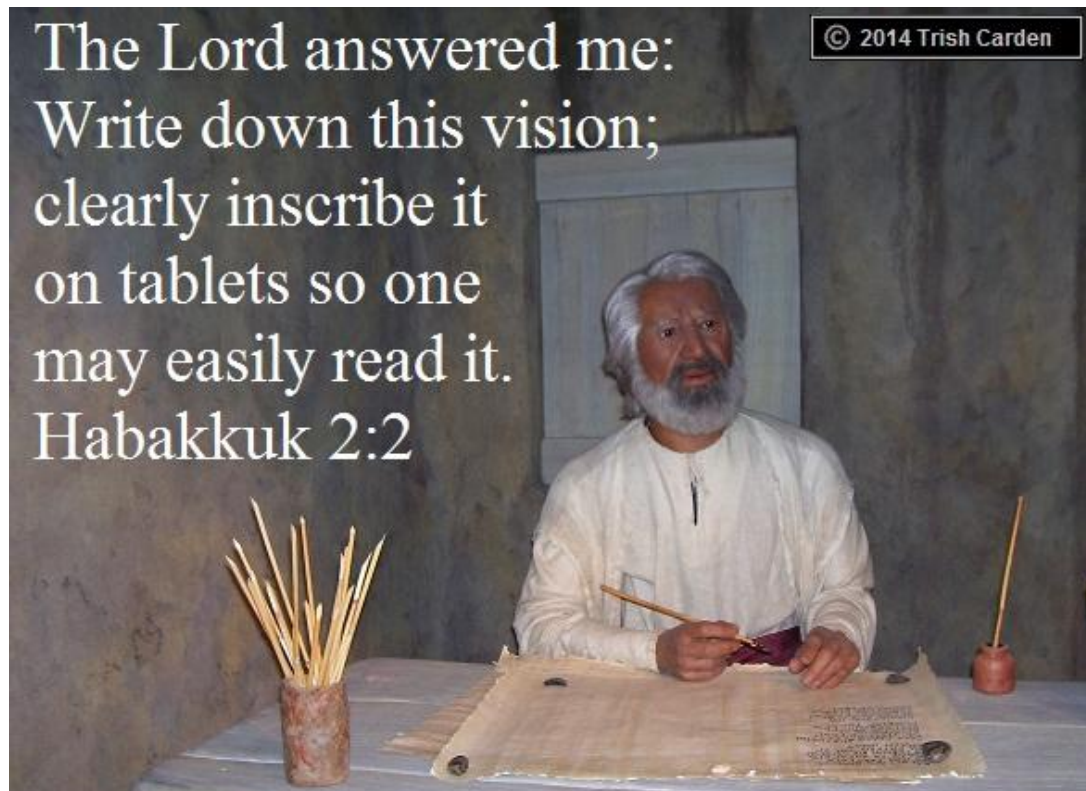
[2I] Habakkuk 2:15-17 What do drunken people do? _____

[2J] Habakkuk 2:18-19 Who is speechless? _____

[2K] Habakkuk 2:20 Where is the Lord? _____

[2L] Compare Habakkuk 2:10-12 with Luke 19:37-40. How are they the same? How are they different?

Think & Pray _____



Things to Come - Habakkuk Chapter 2

[2A] Habakkuk 2:1 What does the prophet do when God does not answer what he said in chapter 1 right away? He waits patiently and expectantly

[2B] Habakkuk 2:2-3 What did the Lord tell the prophet to do with the vision? Write it down

[2C] Habakkuk 2:4 How will the righteous live? By his faith

[2D] Habakkuk 2:5 Who does wine betray? The haughty, the proud

[2E] Habakkuk 2:6-7 What happens to someone who lives on borrowed money? He becomes poor

[2F] Habakkuk 2:8 Why will they be looted? Because they have looted

[2G] Habakkuk 2:9-11 Who are they sinning against? Themselves

[2H] Habakkuk 2:12-14 What will the world be filled with as the water covers the sea? Knowledge of the glory of the Lord

[2I] Habakkuk 2:15-17 What do drunken people do? Expose their nakedness

[2J] Habakkuk 2:18-19 Who is speechless? Idols made of gold, silver and wood

[2K] Habakkuk 2:20 Where is the Lord? In His holy temple

[2L] In both cases the scriptures say that the stones will cry out. However, in Habakkuk it is talking about the ill gotten gain bearing witness against the sinner, but in Luke it is talking about the stones praising God if those that are supposed to praise Him do not do it. I believe stones are used to speak the truth in both cases because in the Hebrew language the words for truth and stone are related. The truth is "that which does not change."

For further thought:

(2m) Thinking about Habakkuk 2:2-3 Why does God tell the prophet to write down what He is saying? I think it is because there is still time to repent and escape the prophesied judgment. Do you agree? Why or why not?

(2n) In Habakkuk 2:8 I believe the looters that will be looted are the Chaldeans, but the Bible is not explicit. Do you agree? Why or why not?

(2o) In Habakkuk 2:15-16 I think the nakedness mentioned is a figure of speech which means anything people would rather keep hidden. Drunkenness removes such inhibitions. Do you agree? Why or why not?

(2p) Compare Habakkuk 2:4 with Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, and Hebrews 10:38. What did you learn?

(2q) If someone asked you what Habakkuk chapter 2 was about what would you tell them?

(2r) What did you learn about Habakkuk chapter 2 that you would like to remember?

(2s) What verse or passage from Habakkuk chapter 2 would be best to memorize? Why?

A Song of Praise - Habakkuk Chapter 3

Please read Habakkuk chapter 3 and answer the following questions:

[3A] Habakkuk 3:1 What is chapter 3? _____

[3B] Habakkuk 3:2 He asks the Lord to remember what in wrath? _____

[3C] Habakkuk 3:3 What covers the heavens? _____

[3D] Habakkuk 3:4-5 What is His radiance like? _____

[3E] Habakkuk 3:6-7 What is everlasting? _____

[3F] Habakkuk 3:8-10 What was sworn? _____

[3G] Habakkuk 3:11 What stood still that usually doesn't? _____

[3H] Habakkuk 3:12-13 He was struck so hard he was cut open from thigh to neck?

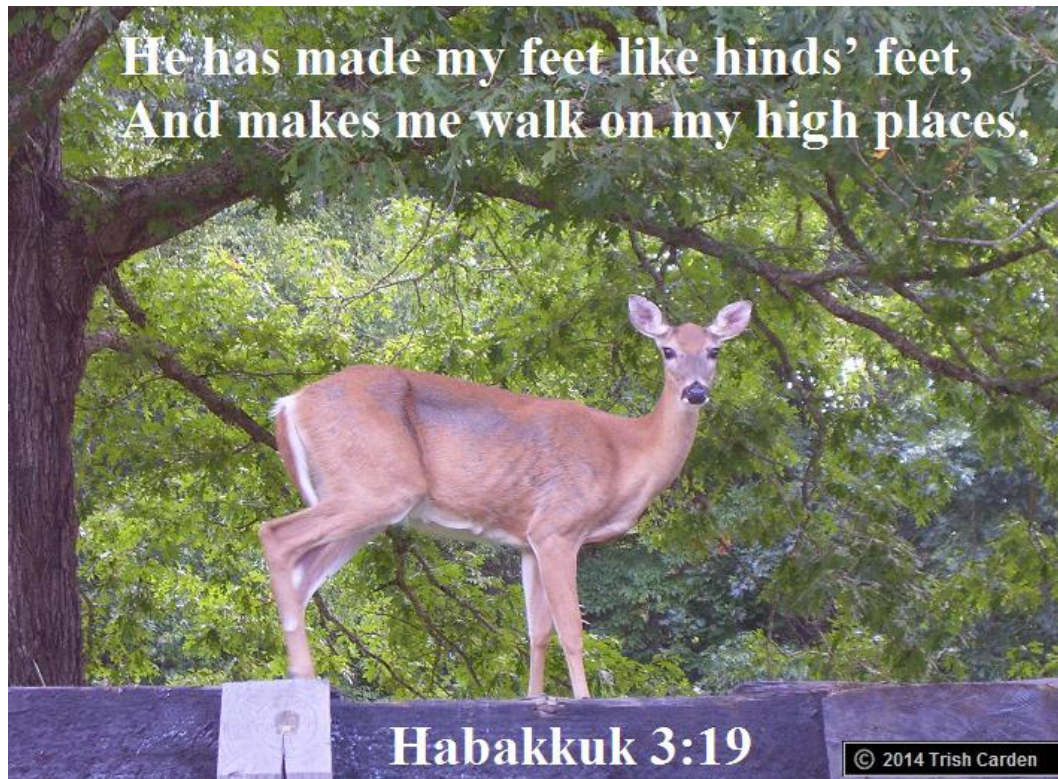
[3I] Habakkuk 3:14-16 What happened when he heard? _____

[3J] Habakkuk 3:17-18 What will the prophet do no matter how bad it gets?

[3K] Habakkuk 3:19 Who is the prophet's strength? _____

[3L] Read Habakkuk 3:17-18. Is this true of you? Why or why not?

Think & Pray _____



A Song of Praise - Habakkuk Chapter 3

- [3A] Habakkuk 3:1 What is chapter 3? A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet.
- [3B] Habakkuk 3:2 He asks the Lord to remember what in wrath? Mercy
- [3C] Habakkuk 3:3 What covers the heavens? His splendor *Teman* is an area south of Judah. It is named for a tribe of Edom, descendants of Esau. *Mount Paran* is a mountain on the southern border of Judah.
- [3D] Habakkuk 3:4-5 What is His radiance like? Sunlight
- [3E] Habakkuk 3:6-7 What is everlasting? His ways *Cushan* is Ethiopia and *Midian* is in the Sinai.
- [3F] Habakkuk 3:8-10 What was sworn? The rods of chastisement What does that mean?
- [3G] Habakkuk 3:11 What stood still that usually doesn't? Sun and moon
- [3H] Habakkuk 3:12-13 He was struck so hard he was cut open from thigh to neck?
The head of the house of evil Satan? The Chaldean King? Someone else?
- [3I] Habakkuk 3:14-16 What happened when he heard? Is inward parts trembled (He was afraid)
- [3J] Habakkuk 3:17-18 What will the prophet do no matter how bad it gets?
Exult and rejoice in God.
- [3K] Habakkuk 3:19 Who is the prophet's strength? The Lord God *hind* is a kind of mountain goat. It is very sure footed even on a steep mountain side.

[3L] Will I praise God no matter how terrible my circumstances get? I don't know; I hope so. As I look at how I have done so far in my life I would say there is both reason to doubt and reason to hope. I've lived through some pretty unpleasant problems by praising God. On the other hand I have complained and whined like a big baby at some stuff as well. I hope I am getting more mature and doing better with all this, but if I am, it is God's doing, not mine.

For further thought:

- (3m) Thinking about Habakkuk 3:9: What does "bow was made bare" signify? Does it mean someone has run out of ammunition or that they have fired a lot of arrows? Or what?
- (3n) If you compare Psalm 7:1 with Habakkuk 3:1 you see two similar words -- Shiggaion and Shigionoth. It is the same word with different endings in Hebrew. Nobody knows what it means. Most scholars think it is some kind of musical direction. This is supported by the last verse of Habakkuk 3. Many people find similarities between Habakkuk 3 and Psalm 7 and conclude the word means to sing in some particular way like quickly or passionately or something else. What do you think about this?
- (3o) Thinking about Habakkuk 3:14: What does "Their exultation was like those who devour the oppressed in secret" mean?
- (3p) Why would the prophet praise God in the last three verses of chapter 3 after describing the terrible wrath of God to come?
- (3q) Thinking about Habakkuk 3:18: Is the Lord the God of your salvation? How do you know?
- (3r) If someone asked you what Habakkuk chapter 3 was about what would you tell them?
- (3s) What did you learn about Habakkuk chapter 3 that you would like to remember?
- (3t) What verse or passage from Habakkuk chapter 3 would be best to memorize? Why?