



**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas



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FAITH THROUGH LISTENING TO GOD HABAKKUK 2:1-20

I want you to notice several things about Habakkuk chapter 2. *First*, it is God who speaks here (with the exception of verse 1). *Second*, note the way God ends His response:

*“But the LORD is in His holy temple.
Let all the earth be silent before Him” (Habakkuk 2:20, NASB).*

No wonder Habakkuk ceases his protests and begins to praise God in chapter 3. *Third*, the reason for Habakkuk’s change of heart must be found here, in chapter 2. *Fourth*, the chapter is dominated by five “woes” that God pronounces upon the wicked. I can just see **Habakkuk standing there at his post, hands on his hips, arrogantly waiting for God’s retraction.** God’s first words to the prophet might be summed up: “Petition denied!” **Verses 4 and 5 of chapter 2 are the heart of the book, and the heart of the gospel.**

It was not God who needed to change His plans (as Habakkuk supposed), it was Habakkuk who was wrong and needed to change. According to verse 4, there are two kinds of people: (1) those who are proud, and whose souls are not right; and, (2) those who are righteous, and who live by faith. When you boil it all down, it comes to this, doesn’t it? Those whose souls are not right are those who are proud. They trust in themselves for salvation. They believe that their good works are sufficient to save them. They disdain grace as a form of charity, which they neither want nor need. Those who are saved have ceased to trust in themselves, in their goodness or good works. They trust in God; they know that He alone can save them from their sins. They **humbly accept** His provision for salvation, and they live their lives trusting Him and obeying His word. The “*faith*” in verse 4 also means “faithfulness.” The righteous enter into salvation by faith, and they persevere by faith as well. **Faith is the cause, and faithfulness is the result.**

It looked to Habakkuk as though the Babylonian victory would be the end of all God’s people and of His promises to them. The vision Habakkuk received was a promise that God would judge those who were proud and arrogant, and who were sinners. **What Habakkuk should also have known is that God’s promises to His people would be fulfilled. God would save a remnant of the righteous, as other prophets had indicated. Habakkuk had to believe this by faith, and he needed to endure the days ahead by walking in obedience to God’s Word.** The righteous are thus preserved (“saved”) through the days of trouble as they persevere by faith. The principle of Habakkuk 2:4 is taken up in three places in the New Testament: (Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:37-39).

I believe that one can find indictments against Israel and Judah for every sin that God condemns in chapter 2 of Habakkuk. Does God emphatically announce that He will judge the Babylonians for their sins? He surely does. But we must realize that these woes apply to everyone who commits such sins, including His chosen people. The people of Judah are guilty of the very sins for which the Babylonians are condemned. God is giving Judah a “taste of her own medicine.” This petulant prophet accuses God of failing to act as He should, within the time frame Habakkuk has determined. I therefore understand Habakkuk 2:4 as being addressed first to Habakkuk, and then to others. It is as though God had said to the prophet, “Habakkuk, I don’t think I like the tone of your petitions. You have accused Me of failing to act when and how you think I should have. Your pride is as offensive to me as the pride of the pagan Babylonians. **You need to be humble and to walk by faith. My ways are higher than your ways, so trust in Me.**”

(Excerpts from "The Just Shall Live By Faith" by Bob Deffinbaugh)

Conviction to Live by Faith A Study in Habakkuk

Date	Lesson	Text
11/02	Introduction	
11/09	Faith in a Just God	1:1-17
11/16	Faith thru Listening	2:1-20
11/23	Living in Faith	3:1-19
11/30	Giving Thanks	
12/07	Review & Summary	

Food for Thought

By **listening**, one will
learn **truths**
By **hearing**, one will
only learn **half-truths**

*If anyone has ears to hear, let
him hear, Consider carefully
what you hear ...*

Mark 4:23-24 (NIV)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

HOW TO HEAR GOD (HAB 2:1-4)

Seek God (1)

- Seeking God while He is near (Isa 55:6-7)
- Seeking, but God has already found us (Isa 65:1)
- Seeking and finding, knocking and having the door opened (Matt 7:7-8)
- Seeking to dine with Jesus and to overcome the world (Rev 3:20-22)
- Rejoicing in seeking God (Ps 40:16)
- Patient while seeking God (Lam 3:25-26)

Realize that God is faithful (2-3)

- God is faithful to His promises and does not violate His covenants (Ps 89:33-36)
- God is faithful by remembering His covenants and in His great love blesses regardless of our rebellion (Ps 106:43-45)
- God is faithful to His promises by continuing to redeem His people of the covenant (Ps 111:9)
- God is faithful to His promises by upholding His people and making them a light to others (Isa 42:6)
- God is faithful to His promises through Jesus' blood covenant (Matt 26:28)

Commit to live by faith (4)

- Living by faith is avoiding a heart of unbelief (Heb 10:38)
- Living by faith means to believe that we are more than conquerors through God (Rom 8:37-39)
- Living by faith means to believe that God's promises are yes and that they are guaranteed by the Holy Spirit (2 Cor 1:20-22)
- Living by faith means rejoicing before seeing (John 8:54-56)
- Living by faith means waiting patiently while hoping in God (Rom 8:23-25)
- Living by faith means living by faith not by sight (2 Cor 5:7)
- Living by faith means to believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He has the words of eternal life (John 6:66-69)

FIVE WOES (HAB 2:5-19)

Dishonesty (6-8)

- Instead of stealing, work so there can be sharing (Eph 4:28)
- Love versus being dishonest (Rom 13:8-10)
- God hates dishonesty (Zech 8:16-17)
- Never take advantage through dishonest gain (Titus 1:10-11)

Coveting evil gain (9-11)

Coveting evil gain(9)

- Evil gain that may mean the forfeiting of the soul (Mark 8:36-37)
- Evil gain through the teaching of false doctrine (1 Tim 6:3-5)

Evil gain through dishonesty (Titus 1:11)

Evil gain through love of possessions and money (Matt 6:24)

Evil gain that leads to the wandering from the faith (1 Tim 6:10)

Coveting that brings disaster to the home (10-11)

Disaster to the home because of the sins of forefathers (Isa 14:21)

Disaster to the home because of not listening to God (Jer 36:31)

Disaster to the home through the punishment for sins (Jer 22:30)

Disaster to the home because of bringing trouble to our families (Prov 11:29)

Disaster to the home because of cutting off the family (Jer 44:7)

Violence (12-14)

Violence of the wicked (Ps 7:9)

Violence that will sometime return to the offender (Ps 7:16)

Violence through refusing to do what is right (Prov 21:7)

Violence plotted in the heart (Prov 24:1-2)

Carousing (15-18)

Carousing is what pagans do and what we did before being born again (1 Peter 4:3)

Carousing leads to mockery and brawling and being led astray (Prov 20:1)

Carousers will not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Cor 6:9-11)

Carousing is one of the acts of the sinful nature (Gal 5:19-22)

Don't envy or wish to be like carousers (Isa 5:22)

Instead of carousing, be filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph 5:18)

Idolatry (19)

Avoid idolatry by fleeing from it (1 Cor 10:14)

Avoid idolatry by putting to death what belongs to the earthly nature (Col 3:5)

Avoid idolatry by being separated from it (2 Cor 6:16-17)

Avoid idolatry by keeping oneself from idols (1 John 5:21)

Avoid idolatry by trusting in God instead (Ps 31:6)

BEING SILENT BEFORE GOD (HAB 2:20)

Be silent and know that God is God (Ps 46:10)

Be silent and be prepared for God's judgment (Ps 76:8-9)

Be silent for the day of the Lord is near (Zeph 1:7)

Be silent because God is in His Holy dwelling (Zech 2:13)

Be silent and listen for God's voice (1 Kings 19:11-13)