



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



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LIVING IN FAITH HABAKKUK 3:1-19

The first two verses of this chapter signal the fact that **Habakkuk has had a serious change of heart.** This chapter is not just a prayer; it is a psalm, a psalm that has been preserved so that it can be sung in worship. It is clear that what we find in the third chapter is given to us as a pattern for our worship. I don't believe that we are to imitate Habakkuk's words or attitudes in chapter 1. However, I see a humbled Habakkuk in these verses, particularly verse 2: **"LORD, I have heard the report about You and I fear."** It is as though he has said, "I get the message, Lord. These things were not only written for others, but for me" (see 2:2). As Job's questions were silenced by God's sequence of questions (see Job 38ff.); as Nebuchadnezzar was humbled before the sovereign God of Israel (Daniel 4); and as Asaph's protests were squelched in Psalm 73 (compare verse 17 with Habakkuk 3:1-2ff.), so Habakkuk is humbled by God's words in Habakkuk chapter 2. **He no longer protests against God's apparent inactivity; He now praises God for what He has done, and what He will do, in His good time.**

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	

We do not have time to carefully consider verses 3-15, but we should realize that this is a highly poetic description of God's working in the past, when He delivered the Israelites from the hand of Pharaoh and the land of Egypt, and as He brought them into the land of Canaan. In majestic terms, God is described as coming down near Sinai, displaying His splendor and glory (verses 3-4). The plagues are His plagues, going before Him and behind Him (verse 5). The surrounding nations who beheld God's power were terrified (verse 7). Verse 8 appears to refer to the parting of the Red Sea and then the Jordan. Verse 11 seems to refer to the days of Joshua, when God caused the sun to stand still (Joshua 10:12-14). God triumphed over the nations, bringing judgment upon them (verse 12), while at the same time He was saving His people (verse 13a). God triumphed over men and nature. Surely, one must infer, if God did all this for His people in the past, He will do the same for His people in Habakkuk's day (and in ours). Fierce and powerful though the Babylonians might be, God would first use them and then judge them, in His good time. Verse 16 describes Habakkuk's new outlook, based upon God's words in chapter 2 and the vision of God in 3:3-15:

If Habakkuk stood erect, with his hand on his hips in chapter 1 (including 2:1), he now finds that he hasn't the strength to stand at all. His stomach churns; his knees buckle (so to speak). He appears to collapse in worship and **submission to the will of God.** He knows that his arguments have failed, and that God's day of judgment is coming upon the people of Judah, and upon the city of Jerusalem. He must patiently wait for that day, by faith, trusting that God will save His own, and that He will eventually judge the Babylonians for their cruelty. Habakkuk's peace and joy no longer were dependent upon his circumstances. When God brought judgment upon Judah, **Habakkuk could still rejoice, for his hope and faith and joy were in God, in God alone.** In His time, God would deliver the righteous and fulfill His covenant promises. Until then, **God was the source of His strength, strength which would sustain him in the dark days ahead. A humbled Habakkuk now realized that it was God who lifted him up and gave him sure footing in hard times.**

Food for Thought

Body and Spirit

The **body** without the **spirit** is **lifeless, useless, valueless.**
Faith without **works** is **dead, ineffective, worthless.**

As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

James 2:26 (NIV)

(shared by a Class Member)

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

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

FAITH IN GOD'S POWER (HAB 3:1-4)

God's power is evidence in His handiworks (1-2)

Evident so that man would have no excuse in recognizing His Divine power (Rom 1:20)

Evident so that all will delight in God (Ps 111:2-3)

Evident so that God will be praised (Ps 145:3-5)

Evident so that man will hope in God (Ps 65:5-7)

Evident so that God's enemies will cringe before Him (Ps 66:3)

God's power is evidence in His splendor (3)

God's splendor is to be worshiped (Ps 96:9)

God is clothed with splendor (Ps 104:1)

God's splendor is glorious (Ps 145:12)

God is to be praised for His splendor (Ps 148:13)

God's power is evidence in His glory (4)

Power through glory because the Heavens declare it (Ps 19:1)

Power through glory because God's glory is over all the earth (Ps 57:5)

Power through glory because God's glory is in His sanctuary (Ps 96:6)

Power through glory because God is the King of glory (Ps 24:7-10)

Power through glory so that man will worship Him (Ps 29:1-2)

Power through glory so that all authorities will revere God (Ps 102:15)

Power through glory because God's glory is great (Ps 138:5)

FAITH IN GOD'S WRATH (HAB 3:5-16)

God's wrath is all encompassing (5-15)

God expresses his wrath every day (Ps 7:11)

God disciplines through His wrath (Ps 38:1-3)

God's wrath should bring Him praise (Ps 76:10)

Man stores up God's wrath on themselves when they are stubborn and unrepentant (Rom 2:5-7)

God's wrath is justified (Rom 5:9)

God's wrath is to be feared (16)

God's wrath is to be feared because of its power (Ps 90:11)

God's wrath is to be feared because only God has the authority and power to cast into hell (Luke 12:5)

God's wrath is to be feared because He administers it in judgment (2 Peter 2:4, 9)

God's wrath is to be feared because it is a dreadful thing (Heb 10:31)

God's wrath is to be feared because it is consuming (Heb 10:26-27)

God's wrath is to be feared because there is no one who can rescue sinners from it (Ps 50:22)

God's wrath is to be feared because no one can withstand it (Ps 76:7)

FAITH IN GOD REGARDLESS OF CIRCUMSTANCES (HAB 3:17-18)

Faith says to be steadfast regardless of lack of our productiveness (17)

Steadfast in the work of the Lord (1 Cor 15:58)

Steadfast because God will not forget our work (Heb 6:10)

Don't worry about whether the world considers our work fruitful, just trust in God (Ps 37:1-4)

Steadfast because only God determines our steps, regardless of our plans (Prov 16:9)

Steadfast because God's purposes prevail regardless of our plans (Prov 19:21)

Faith says to be steadfast regardless of lack of provisions (17)

Steadfast because God always provides when we are obedient (1 Kings 17:12-15)

Steadfast because God can provide more than enough (2 Kings 4:2-7)

Steadfast because God can bless and multiply what little we have (John 6:9-13)

Faith says to count it all joy in trials (18)

Joy because trials develop perseverance (James 1:2-3)

Joy because the persecuted for God will inherit the kingdom of Heaven (Matt 5:10)

Joy because we can expect to be hated, insulted and rejected for God (Luke 6:22)

Joy because it means we have been counted worthy of suffering for God (Acts 5:41)

Joy because there is a better and lasting possession awaiting (Heb 10:34)

Joy because there is a crown awaiting (James 1:12)

Joy because we have participated in the sufferings of Jesus (1 Peter 4:13)

FAITH IN GOD'S EMPOWERMENT (HAB 3:19)

Faith believes that God provides all strength (19)

God provides all strength through His grace (2 Cor 12:9)

God provides all strength because His arms are not too short (Num 11:23)

God provides all strength because He is the one who provides it to His people (Ps 68:35)

God provides all strength because He is mighty (Ps 93:4)

God provides all strength because He is the only one who can (Deut 3:24)

God provides all strength because God is strong (Ps 62:11-12)

Faith believes that all things are possible through God (19)

All things are possible through God because He gives us strength (Phil 4:13)

All things are possible through God because He has the power to do what He promises (Rom 4:19-21)

All things are possible through God because He is our competence (2 Cor 3:5)

All things are possible through God because He provides power to the weak (Isa 40:29-31)

All things are possible through God because His power is made perfect in weakness (2 Cor 12:9-10)

All things are possible through God because we can only be strong in the power of God (Eph 6:10)

All things are possible through God because God works in us and equips us (Heb 13:21)