THE HABAKKUK



CHALLENGE

WEEK ONE

Habakkuk 1



THE HABAKKUK CHALLENGE

¹"The burden which the prophet Habakkuk saw. ²O LORD, how long shall I cry, and You will not hear? Even cry out to You, 'Violence!' and You will not save. ³Why do You show me iniquity, and cause me to see trouble? For plundering and violence are before me; there is strife, and contention arises. ⁴Therefore the law is powerless, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; therefore perverse judgment proceeds."

- 1. Answer and comment on the following questions from Habakkuk 1:1:
 - a. How did Habakkuk identify himself?
 - b. How did Habakkuk describe the message the Lord gave him?

- 2. According to Habakkuk 1:2:
 - a. What was Habakkuk doing?
 - b. How did God seem to be responding?

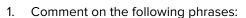
- 3. Define and remark on these words from Habakkuk 1:3:
 - a. *Iniquity*
 - b. Trouble
 - c. Plundering
 - d. Violence
 - e. Strife
 - f. Contention
 - i. Why do you think God allowed His prophet to see these things?

DAY 1 CONT.

HABAKKUK 1:1-4

- 4. Share your insights concerning Judah's condition in Habakkuk's time using these phrases from Habakkuk 1:4:
 - a. The law is powerless
 - b. Justice never goes forth
 - c. The wicked surround the righteous
 - d. Perverse judgment proceeds
- 5. What is your opinion concerning:
 - a. The conditions in Judah
 - b. Why Habakkuk was burdened
- 6. What is your greatest takeaway from Habakkuk 1:1–4?

⁵"Look among the nations and watch—be utterly astounded! For I will work a work in your days which you would not believe, though it were told you."



- a. Look
- b. Among the nations
- c. Watch
- d. Be utterly astounded
- e. For I will work
- f. In your days
- g. Which you would not believe

- h. Though it were told you
- 2. What does this verse convey to you about God's work?

3. What is your greatest takeaway from Habakkuk 1:5?

⁶"For indeed I am raising up the Chaldeans, a bitter and hasty nation which marches through the breadth of the earth, to possess dwelling places that are not theirs. ⁷They are terrible and dreadful; their judgment and their dignity proceed from themselves. ⁸Their horses also are swifter than leopards, and more fierce than evening wolves. Their chargers charge ahead; their cavalry comes from afar; they fly as the eagle that hastens to eat. ⁹They all come for violence; their faces are set like the east wind. They gather captives like sand. ¹⁰They scoff at kings, and princes are scorned by them. They deride every stronghold, for they heap up earthen mounds and seize it. ¹¹Then his mind changes, and he transgresses; he commits offense, ascribing this power to his god."

- 1. Use the following verses from Habakkuk 1 to describe the people God would use to deal with the iniquity and trouble in Judah:
 - a. Verse 6
 - b. Verse 7
 - c. Verse 8
 - d. Verse 9

- e. Verse 10
- f. Verse 11
- 2. As you consider the way God chose and the people He used to deal with Judah, why do you think this news was astonishing and unbelievable to Habakkuk?

3. What is your greatest takeaway from Habakkuk 1:6–11?

¹² "Are You not from everlasting, O LORD my God, my Holy One? We shall not die. O LORD, You have appointed them for judgment; O Rock, You have marked them for correction."

- 1. What do the following descriptions of God convey to you about Habakkuk's understanding of God:
 - a. Everlasting
 - b. LORD
 - c. My God
 - d. My Holy One
 - e. Rock

- 2. Use these phrases from Habakkuk 1:12 to understand God's work in Habakkuk's day:
 - a. We shall not die
 - b. Appointed them
 - c. For judgment
 - d. Marked them
 - e. For correction
- 3. What is your greatest takeaway from Habakkuk 1:12?

HABAKKUK 1:13-14

¹³"You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, and hold Your tongue when the wicked devours a person more righteous than he? ¹⁴Why do You make men like fish of the sea, like creeping things that have no ruler over them?"

Use Habakkuk 1:13a to cite what Habakkuk knew about God.

- 2. From Habakkuk 1:13b and 14, write out Habakkuk's questions:
 - a. Why do You
 - b. Why do You
- 3. Considering the news that God had shared with Habakkuk concerning Judah's judgment, why are these valid questions?
- 4. What is your greatest takeaway from Habakkuk 1:13–14?

¹⁵ "They take up all of them with a hook, they catch them in their net, and gather them in their dragnet. Therefore they rejoice and are glad. ¹⁶Therefore they sacrifice to their net, and burn incense to their dragnet; because by them their share is sumptuous and their food plentiful. ¹⁷ Shall they therefore empty their net, and continue to slay nations without pity?"

- 1. Use the following verses to cite how terrible the Chaldeans were:
 - a. Verse 15
 - b. Verse 16
 - c. Verse 17
 - i. In light of this, why do you think Habakkuk was perplexed about what God was going to do?

 From your study in Habakkuk 1, what have you learned concerning the ways in which God works?

2. What is your greatest takeaway from Habakkuk 1?

WEEK TWO

Habakkuk 2



THE HABAKKUK CHALLENGE

1"I will stand my watch and set myself on the rampart, and watch to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer when I am corrected."

- What do the following phrases convey to you about Habakkuk's preparation to hear from the Lord:
 - a. I will stand my watch
 - b. Set myself on the rampart
 - c. Watch to see
 - d. What He will say to me
 - e. What I will answer
 - f. When I am corrected

2. Which of Habakkuk's preparations resonates with you the most?

3. What is your greatest takeaway from Habakkuk 2:1?

² "Then the LORD answered me and said: 'Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. ³ For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry."

- 1. What happened to Habakkuk as he was waiting? Habakkuk 2:2a
- 2. Answer the following questions from Habakkuk 2:2b:
 - a. What was Habakkuk to write?
 - b. What was he to write it on?
 - c. How was he to write it?
 - d. For what purpose was he to write it?
- 3. Use the following phrases from Habakkuk 2:3 to describe the vision:
 - a. An appointed time

- b. At the end it will speak
- c. It will not lie
- d. Though it tarries
- e. Wait for it
- f. It will surely come
- g. It will not tarry
- 4. Which of these phrases resonates most with a vision or word God has spoken to you?
- 5. What is your greatest takeaway from Habakkuk 2:2–3?

⁴"Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by his faith. ⁵Indeed, because he transgresses by wine, he is a proud man, and he does not stay at home. Because he enlarges his desire as hell, and he is like death, and cannot be satisfied, he gathers to himself all nations and heaps up for himself all peoples. ⁶Will not all these take up a proverb against him, and a taunting riddle against him, and say, 'Woe to him who increases what is not his—how long? And to him who loads himself with many pledges'? ⁷Will not your creditors rise up suddenly? Will they not awaken who oppress you? And you will become their booty. ⁸Because you have plundered many nations, all the remnant of the people shall plunder you, because of men's blood and the violence of the land and the city, and of all who dwell in it."

- 1. Use Habakkuk 2:4 to contrast the two types of men and women:
 - a. The proud
 - b. The just
- Use the following verses to describe the proud and what would happen to them:
 - a. Verse 5
 - b. Verse 6

- c. Verse 7
- d. Verse 8
- 3. Considering the pending judgment, why do you think it was essential that the just live by faith?

4. What does it mean to you today that the just shall live by faith?

5. What is your greatest takeaway from Habakkuk 2:4–8?

⁹"Woe to him who covets evil gain for his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of disaster! ¹⁰You give shameful counsel to your house, cutting off many peoples, and sin against your soul. ¹¹For the stone will cry out from the wall, and the beam from the timbers will answer it. ¹²Woe to him who builds a town with bloodshed, who establishes a city by iniquity! ¹³Behold, is it not of the LORD of hosts that the peoples labor to feed the fire, and nations weary themselves in vain? ¹⁴For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."

- 1. Use the following verses to cite God's descriptions of evil:
 - a. Verse 9
 - b Verse 10
 - c. Verse 11
 - d. Verse 12

2. According to Habakkuk 2:13, the Lord allows the wicked nations to labor in vain. How does this speak to you concerning God's authority?

- 3. Use the following phrases from Habakkuk 2:14 to highlight God's future plans for all the nations:
 - a. For the earth will be filled
 - b. The knowledge of the glory of the LORD
 - c. As the waters cover the sea
- 4. What hope do these verses give to you?

5. What is your greatest takeaway from Habakkuk 2:9–14?

¹⁵"Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbor, pressing him to your bottle, even to make him drunk, that you may look on his nakedness! ¹⁶You are filled with shame instead of glory. You also—drink! and be exposed as uncircumcised! The cup of the LORD's right hand will be turned against you, and utter shame will be on your glory. ¹⁷For the violence done to Lebanon will cover you, and the plunder of beasts which made them afraid, because of men's blood and the violence of the land and the city, and of all who dwell in it."

1. This is the fourth time that God has used the word woe in reference to judgment (Habakkuk 2:6, 9, 12, 15). What does this word woe convey to you?

- a. Use Habakkuk 2:15 to describe who will receive this fourth woe.
- 2. Contrast the following by completing the thoughts from Habakkuk 2:16:
 - a. Instead of glory: _____
 - b. Instead of covered: _____
 - c. Instead of the cup of God's favor:

- d. Instead of glory: _____
- 3. According to Habakkuk 2:17, what further judgment was going to fall?

4. What is your greatest takeaway from Habakkuk 2:15–17?

¹⁸ "What profit is the image, that its maker should carve it, the molded image, a teacher of lies, that the maker of its mold should trust in it, to make mute idols? ¹⁹ Woe to him who says to wood, 'Awake!' to silent stone, 'Arise! It shall teach!' Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, yet in it there is no breath at all. ²⁰ But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him."

- 1. Use the following verses to record your observations concerning idols:
 - a. Verse 18
 - b. Verse 19
- 2. Describe the power of the Lord by remarking on these phrases from Habakkuk 2:20:
 - a. The LORD is in His holy temple
 - b. Let all the earth keep silence before Him

3. Contrast what you learned about idols with the power of the Lord.

4. What is your greatest takeaway from Habakkuk 2:18–20?

WEEK THREE

Habakkuk 3



THE HABAKKUK CHALLENGE

¹"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."

1. According to Habakkuk 3:1, what did the prophet write in response to the astonishing plan of the Lord?

- a. Compare Habakkuk 1:1 and 3:1, and comment on the differences you observe.
- 2. Use Habakkuk 3:2a to comment on how Habakkuk first felt when he heard the Lord's speech.

- 3. From Habakkuk 3:2b, comment on the meaning and importance of the following prayer requests of the prophet:
 - a. O LORD, revive Your work in the midst of the years

- b. In the midst of the years make it known
- c. In wrath remember mercy
- 4. What is your greatest takeaway from Habakkuk 3:1–2?

³"God 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."

- 1. Remark on what Habakkuk was communicating about the Lord using these phrases from Habakkuk 3:3–6:
 - a. God came from Teman
 - b. The Holy One from Mount Paran
 - c. His glory covered the heavens
 - d. The earth was full of His praise
 - e. His brightness was like the light
 - f. He had rays flashing from His hand

- g. There His power was hidden
- h. He stood
- i. He measured the earth
- i. He looked
- k. He startled the nations
- I. The everlasting mountains were scattered
- m. The perpetual hills bowed
- n. His ways are everlasting

2. What was the reaction of Cushan and Midian to the Lord's greatness? Habakkuk 3:7

3. Why do you desire the world to know the greatness of the Lord?

4. What is your greatest takeaway from Habakkuk 3:3–7?

⁸"O 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."

- 1. Drawing from the hyperboles invoked by Habakkuk, describe what he was conveying about the Lord:
 - a. Verse 8
 - b. Verse 9
 - c. Verse 10
 - d. Verse 11
 - e. Verse 12

2. Use Habakkuk 3:13 to describe the Lord's reason for displaying His power to: a. *His people*

b. The house of the wicked

3. What is your greatest takeaway from Habakkuk 3:8–13?

HABAKKUK 3:14-16

¹⁴ "You 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. ¹⁵ You walked through the sea with Your horses, through the heap of great waters. ¹⁶ When 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."

- 1. From Habakkuk 3:14–15, note and comment on:
 - a. The enemy's activity
 - b. God's activity
- Use the following phrases from Habakkuk 3:16 to note the prophet's reaction to what he heard:
 - a. My body trembled
 - b. My lips quivered
 - c. Rottenness entered my bones

- d. I trembled in myself
- e. Rest in the day of trouble
- 3. What is your greatest takeaway from Habakkuk 3:14–16?

 17 "Though 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— 18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation."

- 1. From Habakkuk 3:17, note the calamity that the prophet is preparing for concerning:
 - a. The fig tree
 - b. The vines
 - c. The olive
 - d. The fields
 - e. The flock
 - f. The herd

2. List some things in your life that are subject to failure.

- 3. Capture the resolve of Habakkuk by exploring the following phrases:
 - a. Yet I will rejoice
 - b. In the LORD
 - c. I will joy
 - d. In the God of my salvation
- 4. How does Habakkuk's resolve minister to you?
- 5. What is your greatest takeaway from Habakkuk 3:17–18?

¹⁹ "The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, and He will make me walk on my high hills."

 From Habakkuk 3:19a, print the declaration Habakkuk made concerning the Lord.

a. What does it mean to you that the Lord God is your strength?

- 2. Consider and comment on the confidence of Habakkuk by explaining and remarking on the following phrases:
 - a. He will make my feet like deer's feet

b. He will make me walk on my high hills

i. Which of these phrases ministers to you the most personally?

3. What is your greatest takeaway from Habakkuk 3:19?

"Yet I will rejoice in the Lord,
I will joy in the God
of my salvation.

The Lord God is my strength;
He will make my feet
like deer's feet,
and He will make me walk
on my high hills."
—Habakkuk 3:18-19

The Habakkuk Challenge by Cheryl Brodersen

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