

# Habakkuk 3

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## Day 1

### Read Habakkuk 3:1-4

#### Habaukkuk's prayer

1. As Habakkuk prayed, what did he focus on first? 3:2a (Compare Psalm 143:5,6)

- How did that affect him?

**FYI:** **3:1 Shigionoth** refers to a distinctive type of music, sung in a spirit of victory and excitement. Habakkuk's book is the most poetic of all the prophets, and this last chapter is an actual psalm. This psalm, designed to be sung as a prayer hymn, seeks both to review God's works of old for His people, as a means of encouraging them in relation to the troubles that were coming, and also to assure that God's ancient promises will surely be fulfilled." - Henry Morris

2. Underline what the "awe/fear" of the Lord is connected with in the following verses?

- Proverbs 9:10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. NIV
- Proverbs 8:13-14 To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech. 14 Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have understanding and power. NIV
- Proverbs 14:26-27 He who fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge. 27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death. NIV
- Deuteronomy 6:24 "So the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God for our good always and for our survival, as it is today. NAS
- Deuteronomy 10:12 "Now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, NAS
- Joshua 24:14 "Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. NIV
- Psalm 34:11-14 Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. 12 Who is the man who desires life And loves length of days that he may see good? 13 Keep your tongue from evil And your lips from speaking deceit. 14 Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it. NAS
- Psalm 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments; His praise endures forever. NAS
- Psalm 128:1 How blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, Who walks in His ways. NAS
- Proverbs 1:29 Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD. NAS
- Isaiah 33:6 And He will be the stability of your times, A wealth of salvation, wisdom and knowledge; The fear of the LORD is his treasure. NAS

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3. What requests did Habakkuk make? 3:2 (See Psalm 138:7,8)

**FYI: "Revive...make it known:** Habakkuk prayed for God's renewed involvement in Israel. In the midst of the years: This was a way of calling for a quick response."  
- The Nelson Study Bible (1523)

"Israel would be judged through the Babylonian invasion and captivity but that was not to be the end of Israel. God would revive His work in the midst of the years...Although the present and the near future looked bleak, it was only temporary. God's promises for Israel would stand. Nothing could ever change them. They would not fail...Habakkuk's God was the everlasting One who does not change but keeps His covenants."  
- Kay Arthur (205)

4. Underline the basis on which Habakkuk could appeal to God for mercy?

- Psalm 78:38-39 But He, being compassionate, forgave their iniquity and did not destroy them; And often He restrained His anger And did not arouse all His wrath. Thus He remembered that they were but flesh, A wind that passes and does not return. NAS
- Psalm 103:17 But the lovingkindness of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children, NAS
- Psalm 130:3-4 If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? 4 But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared. NAS
- Lamentations 3:32-33 For if He causes grief, Then He will have compassion According to His abundant lovingkindness. For He does not afflict willingly Or grieve the sons of men. NAS

### God's Appearance

5. What words and images did Habakkuk use to describe God's power in 3:3-6 and (***Digging Deeper***) to what events might he have been referring (past and future)?

Vs.	Descriptive words	<b><i>Digging Deeper</i></b> Possible events
3:3,4	<i>Splendor covers the heavens</i> <i>Praise</i> <i>Radiance like sunlight</i> <i>Rays ("rays/horns" = figuratively power)</i>	See Exodus 19:16; 24:16-17; Deuteronomy 33:2; Matthew 24:27,29
3:5		See Exodus 9:13-14; 2 Kings 19:34-35
3:6		See Exodus 19:18; Psalm 135:9,10 Revelation 6:12-14

**FYI:** vs. 3:3 "'Teman' is synonymous with the land of Edom, and 'Paran' is in the adjacent Sinai wilderness. Habakkuk here refers partially to God's leading His people in their Exodus from Egypt, with the veiled revelation of His glory on Mount Sinai. However, the dramatic events described following the 'Selah' pause did not take place at that time. Its literal fulfillment must be at His glorious coming...of the end-times. It seems that Habakkuk's prophetic vision, on which his psalm was based, contained a blending of both God's past miraculous deliverances of His people and also the future deliverances of which these had been a type."  
- Henry Morris

Vs. 3:4 **"His power was hidden:** While God reveals evidence of His power, its totality and greatness remain hidden."  
- The Nelson Study Bible (1523) (See Job 26:14)

"Selah is probably a musical term, but its exact meaning is unknown. It may indicate a sudden shouting of 'Amen,' a moment of silence, or a musical chord."  
- The Nelson Study Bible (1523) (1523)

6. What impresses you the most from these descriptions of God?

- What does Job 26:7-14 say about God's power?

***Digging Deeper***

Read Isaiah 40:12-31  
for a wonderful  
description of God's  
power. (Also Job 38-41)

7. Underline the extent of God's power and understanding.

- Job 5:9 Who does great and unsearchable things, Wonders without number. NAS
- Psalm 145:3 Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. NIV
- Psalm 147:5 Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite. NAS
- Psalm 40:5 Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders which You have done, And Your thoughts toward us; There is none to compare with You. If I would declare and speak of them, They would be too numerous to count. NAS
- Ecclesiastes 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. NIV
- Isaiah 40:28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. NAS
- Jeremiah 32:17 "Ah Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You, NAS
- 1 Timothy 6:16 who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen. NAS
- Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! NAS

8. How did God's power on behalf of His people affect other nations? 3:7 *Cushan and Midian are representative of other nations.* (See Exodus 23:27,28; Joshua 2:8-11)

**Applying the Word:** Have you ever found that remembering the ways that God has worked in your past has helped you to deal with things in the present? Describe how it helped.

## Day 2

### Read Habakkuk 3:8-15

#### God's Power

9. From 3:8-11, list the elements of nature over which God exhibited His power.

- List the weapons that God is described as having. 3:8-11 What picture does this poetic imagery give you of His power? (Psalm 18:7-15)

#### ***Digging Deeper***

Read Psalm 18:7-15 for a similar poetic portrayal of God's power.

**FYI:** "The Lord's dramatic conflict with the 'sea' echoes his dominion over the waters of Creation and the Flood...events that pervade Israel's literature as a pattern of future salvation and judgment... "God's 'horses' and 'chariots' evidence his power as Lord of hosts, or armies."  
- The Expositor's Bible Commentary

10. What power did God demonstrate over water in: *(Do this in your small group. Have each woman look up one of the references and read it out loud.)*

- Genesis 7:11,12,17; 8:1,2
- Exodus 7:19-24
- Exodus 14:21,22
- Exodus 17:6
- Joshua 3:14-17
- Jonah 1:4
- Mark 4:39

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11. Why do you think Habakkuk focused heavily on God's victories in connection with water? (See Psalm 93:4)
12. Underline the control God demonstrated or will demonstrate over heavenly phenomenon.
- Joshua 10:12-13 Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, "O sun, stand still at Gibeon, And O moon in the valley of Aijalon." So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, Until the nation avenged themselves of their enemies...And the sun stopped in the middle of the sky and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day. NAS
  - Exodus 10:21-23 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that darkness will spread over Egypt--darkness that can be felt." So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and total darkness covered all Egypt for three days. No one could see anyone else or leave his place for three days. Yet all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived.
  - Matthew 27:4,46,5 From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"--which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
  - Mark 13:24-26 "But in those days, after that tribulation, THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL BE FALLING from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken. "Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN CLOUDS with great power and glory. NAS
  - 2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. NAS

13. What phrases describe the actions God had taken against Israel's enemies in 3:12-15?

**Digging Deeper**

Why had God been angry with the nations? Deuteronomy 12:29-31; 18:9-12; Ezra 9:11

- For whom did God do this? 3:13a (See also Zechariah 2:8)

**FYI:** "Spendera comments that...Historically the **evil head** (NIV "*leader of the land of wickedness*" 3:13) may refer to Pharaoh, who led Egypt against Israel. For the prophet it would be equally relevant to see a coming judgment upon the king of Babylon.

But there is also a future dimension to Habakkuk's psalm that envisions God's triumph over all evil. So whether the reference includes the Exodus, the Exile or a [future] enemy, it places the victory squarely with the Lord. To this, the psalm adds its third 'Selah'"

- preceptaustin.org

"As Habakkuk remembers how God has saved in the past, it makes him full of faith for what God can do right now and in the future."

- David Guzik

14. How did Habakkuk describe one of the ways that God destroyed the enemies? 1:14a (*For interesting accounts of God causing armies to literally turn on themselves see: Judges 7:22; 2 Chronicles 20:20-24*)

**FYI: You pierced with his own spears** 3:14 "turning the enemy's 'spear', or weapons, against himself. This is reminiscent of the overthrow of Pharaoh's horses and chariots (cf. Exodus 14:24-25) and it also represents a fitting judgment on the Babylonians. Indeed Babylon fell to Cyrus without opposition, its 'leader' being betrayed by factions among his own subjects."  
- The Expositor's Bible Commentary

15. What picture did Habakkuk give of the intent of the wicked? 3:14b (See also Psalm 10:8,9)

- Who else is this a picture of? 1 Peter 5:8

16. What ultimate wickedness has and will Christ destroy? Colossians 2:15; Revelation 20:10

17. What confidence can we have in this present world in dealing with evil? 1 John 4:4

**Applying the Word:** *Do you really believe in your heart that God has power over your life? In what ways, if any, does your view of Him need to be changed?*

### Day 3

#### Read Habakkuk 3:16-17

#### Habakkuk's Response

18. How was Habakkuk affected by his understanding of God's power and judgment? 3:16a Why do you think it had this effect on him? (*Cf. 3:2a and note the repetition of the word "heard."*)

**FYI:** "The prophet was shaken and disabled throughout his being--he was not exempted from the turmoil that pervades...the chapter."  
- The Expositor's Bible Commentary

"Habakkuk...recognizes his own weakness and low standing before this God of all majesty and power."  
- David Guzik

## 19. Underline the responses people had and will have to a revelation of God.

- Isaiah 6:5 Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." NAS
- Judges 13:20-22 For it came about when the flame went up from the altar toward heaven, that the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar. When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell on their faces to the ground. 21 Now the angel of the LORD did not appear to Manoah or his wife again. Then Manoah knew that he was the angel of the LORD. 22 So Manoah said to his wife, "We will surely die, for we have seen God." NAS
- Job 40:3-5 Then Job answered the LORD and said, "Behold, I am insignificant; what can I reply to You? I lay my hand on my mouth. "Once I have spoken, and I will not answer; Even twice, and I will add nothing more." NAS
- Job 42:1,5,6 Then Job replied to the LORD:...5 My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. 6 Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes." NIV
- Daniel 10:7-9 Now I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, while the men who were with me did not see the vision; nevertheless, a great dread fell on them, and they ran away to hide themselves. So I was left alone and saw this great vision; yet no strength was left in me, for my natural color turned to a deathly pallor, and I retained no strength. But I heard the sound of his words; and as soon as I heard the sound of his words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground. NAS
- Mark 4:39 And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. And He said to them, "Why are you afraid? How is it that you have no faith?" 41 They became very much afraid and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?" NAS
- Luke 5:8-9 But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" 9 For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken; NAS
- Philippians 2:10-11 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. NAS

20. What response did Habakkuk resolve to have? 3:16b (Cf. 2:1) What does this response indicate about his faith?

- What did he know was coming? 3:16c

***Digging Deeper***

Compare David's resolve in the midst of trouble. Psalm 46 (See especially 46:10)

**FYI:** "For Habakkuk to see such things that were veiled to his contemporaries was to experience distress (cf. 1:5). To see beyond them, to the Holy One who appointed them, was to demonstrate the greatness of faith and to find strength to 'wait quietly'"  
- The Expositor's Bible Commentary

## 21. Underline what scripture connects with waiting on the Lord.

- Isaiah 40:31 Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary. NAS
- Psalm 25:3 Indeed, none of those who wait for You will be ashamed; Those who deal treacherously without cause will be ashamed. NAS
- Psalm 27:14 Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD. NAS
- Lamentations 3:25-26 The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. NIV
- Psalm 130:5-6 I wait for the LORD, my soul does wait, And in His word do I hope. 6 My soul waits for the Lord More than the watchmen for the morning; Indeed, more than the watchmen for the morning. NAS
- Isaiah 26:3-4 You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. 4 Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal. NIV

## 22. What other calamities did Habakkuk realize the nation might be facing? 3:17

- Why did he anticipate these things? Deuteronomy 28:15-18

**FYI: Fig tree...vines...olive...field...flock...cattle:** "The nouns used in this verse represent the bases of Israel's agricultural economy. Her prosperity was dependent on the nation's obedience to the covenant and on the Lord's consequent blessing (Lev 26:3-5, 10; Deut 28:2-14). Such prosperity was forfeited by disobedience and disloyalty to the covenant, which incurred the Lord's chastening through natural and military disasters...The covenant...also gave assurance of restoration to God's favor and presence (cf. Deut 30:1-10; 32:34-43); it was for this joy set before him that Habakkuk could set his face to confront and endure the intervening affliction."  
- The Expositor's Bible Commentary

## 23. What attitude Habakkuk choose to have? 3:18

**FYI:** "[Habakkuk] knows that this God of majesty and power is not *diminished* because man faces difficult trials... He can still **rejoice in the LORD**, because He is unchanging. Habakkuk didn't just practice positive thinking and shut out the idea of the barren fig tree and the empty cattle stalls. Instead, he saw those problems for what they were and remembered that God was greater than them all."  
- David Guzik

"Habakkuk has learned the lesson of faith (2:4) - to trust in God's providence regardless of circumstances. He declares that even if God should send suffering and loss, he would still rejoice in his Savior-God - one of the strongest affirmations of faith in all Scripture."  
- The NIV Study Bible (1391)

"I know, that it is not easy to rejoice when you find yourself in the midst of devastating circumstances. It seems like insanity. But you are not to rejoice in the circumstances, but in the God who is in charge of the circumstances!...We can rejoice in our circumstances because we are not looking at them, but at Him...Truly, this is how 'the righteous will live by his faith' and, in doing so, he will discover that 'the Lord GOD is my strength, and He has made my feet like hinds' feet, and makes me walk on my high places'... Fear and doubt are conquered by a faith that rejoices. And faith can rejoice because the promises of God are as certain as God Himself."  
- Kay Arthur (153, 229,230)

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24. Underline the attitudes or beliefs of the following men in spite of difficulties, danger and death.

- Job: "Though He slay me, I will hope in Him. Nevertheless I will argue my ways before Him." Job 13:15 NAS
- David: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me." Psalm 23:4 NAS
- Paul: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. NIV Romans 8:38-39 NIV
- "...we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. Romans 5:3-5 NIV
- Peter: "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you...16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name." 1 Peter 4:12-16 NAS
- James: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." James 1:2-4 NIV

**Applying the Word:**

"May God restore your soul, refresh your spirit, and remove every cloud of despair, release every care of anxiety, lift every burden of strife, heal every wound of unkindness, cleanse every stain of sin, take every weight of heaviness, and renew to the fullest, every joy, hope, and blessing that He has made available to you in the riches of Jesus Christ." a prayer by Roy Lessin

Take time to pray with God right now and "cast on Him" (1 Pet. 5:7) any burden that you are carrying.

## Day 4

### Read Habakkuk 3:18-19

#### Habakkuk's Praise

25. What two attributes of God did Habakkuk name as he rejoiced and trusted in Him?

- 3:18b
- 3:19a (See Psalm 18:1,2)

26. From Deuteronomy 30:1-10, what promises would Habakkuk have been putting his hope in?

27. In what ways does the picture of a deer (*hind* = a doe or female deer) walking on high places (3:19) communicate God's strength in our lives?

**FYI:** "makes my feet like the feet of a deer. Give me sure-footed confidence." - The NIV Study Bible (1392)

"Habakkuk thought of the deer running about on the **high hills**, never losing a step and never falling. More than that, the deer positively dance and leap on the hills - they are full of life and joy." - David Guzik

28. Underline other amazing assurances has God given us to help us through times of difficulty.

- Isaiah 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
- Romans 8:18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.
- Ephesians 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,
- Philippians 1:6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
- Philippians 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.
- Hebrews 13:5-6 God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." 6 So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" NIV
- Hebrews 7:25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. NIV
- 2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.
- Jude 24 To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy- NIV

**FYI:** "God assured Habakkuk-and therefore assures us-that the ungodly would not go unpunished; woes were determined and would not fail. But somehow a knowledge of coming judgment is not enough...The truth that balances the knowledge of coming judgment is the fact that God is God - immutable, eternal, that all is under His control! You can rest because what He has planned...will come to pass.

And you, child of God, live by your faith. You can! Faith will hold because it is faith in the everlasting Sovereign Ruler of all the universe, the Creator of heaven and earth, the One who sits on the throne...

I do not know your trials or your frustrations. I can't know what might be troubling you or making you anxious. But God knows those things. What you don't understand, what you feel unable to cope with, can be overcome moment by moment if you will live by faith and walk in communion with Him."

- Kay Arthur (204,205)

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29. Why can we rejoice even in our weaknesses?

- Romans 8:26-28
- 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

30. How has the study of the books of Jonah and Habakkuk impacted your view of God?

- What is one main idea you will take away from the book of Jonah?
- What is one main idea you will take away from the book of Habakkuk?
- How has God convicted, corrected and/or encouraged you through this study?

***Applying the Word:*** What promise does Habakkuk 3:19 hold concerning any present circumstances you are facing? What hope does it give you for any fears about the future that you have?