

Habakkuk

Who Do You Think You Are Talking To?

Main Idea

God is fully aware of just how dark and chaotic life becomes. As our great Shepherd, He brings this darkness and chaos instigated by evil and our carnal nature to its knees. In fact, He transforms our thinking during the sanctifying process by directing us to “delight in Him.”

Background

Habakkuk prophesied during the final days of the Assyrian Empire and the beginning of Babylonia's world rulership under Nabopolassar and his son Nebuchadnezzar. This was a time of God disciplining His people with His righteous wrath for their adultery and refusal to repent.

Background

Habakkuk's bitter lament may reflect a time period shortly after the death of King Josiah; days in which the godly king's reforms were quickly overturned by his successor, Jehoiakim.

Background

His simple introduction as “the prophet Habakkuk” may imply that he needed no introduction since he was a well known prophet of his day.

Background

It is certain that he was a contemporary of Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and Zephaniah.

Background

Habakkuk is looking back to an oracle that he received from the Lord. The prophet had a huge concern for God's wayward people and longed for the Lord to restore them.

Background

Habakkuk's response to the God given oracle has a bit of "Patriotic " entitlement to it.

Habakkuk's response to God's announcement about Babylon being the answer to Judah's evil is completely natural. In fact it is revealing his thinking, to some degree, that God is like man. Psalm 50:21

The Go To Standard for Our Thinking

Isaiah 55:8-9

⁸ “For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD.
⁹ “For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways
And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Background

His Thinking

Why would God use evil to defeat evil?

Why not put a righteous leader over them?

Why not bring about justice instead of simply crushing one evil with an even bigger evil?

Background

As we will see, Habakkuk's expectations are ultimately met in Christ, but in his lifetime he would see the reaping of what has been sown by Judah.

Background

The unchangeable Names of God are found in His replies as He shepherds Habakkuk through his perplexity, doubts and indignation. They are consistent with the entirety of Scripture and are extremely relevant to our times today as we will see. They are the bases for “delighting in the Lord.”

Applicable Assurance

God is fully capable of growing our faith from one of perplexity and doubt to the height of full assurance and absolute trust in Him. He uses our suffering, perplexity and doubt to guide us and mature us in the discipline of “delighting in the Lord.”

Habakkuk 1:1-4

“The oracle (burden) that Habakkuk the prophet received How long, LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, “Violence!” but you do not save? Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? Destruction and violence are before me there is strife, and conflict abounds. Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.”

Who Does He Think He is Talking To?

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The Go To Standard for Our Thinking

Romans 12:3

“For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.”

The Go To Standard for Our Thinking

The counsel of our world encourages us to look within yourself for your identity, your natural tendency is to search for your identity in external things.

The Bible says that all men and women are created in God's image. Humankind was created to reflect some of God's attributes. You can look for your identity anywhere, but followers of Jesus are called to find their identity in Him.

GOD'S LOVING RESPONSE

HABAKKUK 1:5-11

“Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. **For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if I told you.** ⁶ For behold, I **am raising up the Chaldeans**, that bitter and hasty nation, who march through the breadth of the earth, to seize dwellings not their own. ⁷ They are dreaded and fearsome; their justice and dignity go forth from themselves. ⁸ Their horses are swifter than leopards, more fierce than the evening wolves; their horsemen press proudly on. Their horsemen come from afar; they fly like an eagle swift to devour. ⁹ They all come for violence, all their faces forward. They gather captives like sand. ¹⁰ At kings they scoff, and at rulers they laugh. They laugh at every fortress, for they pile up earth and take it. ¹¹ Then they sweep by like the wind and go on, guilty men, whose own might is their god!”

God Directs Habakkuk to Delight in Him

In His response, **God (THE AUTHORITY)** is commanding Habakkuk to **delight in Him to gain His perspective of what He is doing among the nations and how it will impact His beloved Israel.** He is providing Habakkuk with truth that will resolve his perplexity and doubt. He is, in fact, in the process of transforming Habakkuk's mind to think rightly about Him and himself by fixing his eyes on the sovereignty and providence found in His names rather than living in bondage to the fear of man.

A different look at this response

Ezekiel 36:22-27

²² “Therefore say to the Israelites, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake, people of Israel, that I am going to do these things, **but for the sake of my holy name**, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. ²³ **I will show the holiness of my great name**, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Sovereign LORD, when I am proved holy through you before their eyes.

²⁴ “‘For **I will** take you out of the nations; **I will** gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. ²⁵ **I will** sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; **I will** cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. ²⁶ **I will** give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; **I will** remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And **I will** put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

The Go To Standard for Our Thinking

This insightful statement opens A. W. Tozer's classic book, *The Knowledge of the Holy*.

“What comes into our mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

The Glory of His Holy Name

A Sound Theology is the basis for a sound anthropology.
This is accomplished by delighting in Him. Ps 37:4

Let's put God's reply in the context of **"I Will Show the Holiness of My Great Name."**

The Glory of His Holy Name

JEHOVAH: “I AM”; THE SELF-EXISTENT ONE

Isaiah 45:5

“I am the LORD, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me;”

The Glory of His Holy Name

JEHOVAH-TISDKENU: OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

1 Corinthians 1:30

“But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption...”

2 Corinthians 5:21

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

The Glory of His Holy Name

JEHOVAH-ROHI: THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

John 10:14-18

“I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”

The Glory of His Holy Name

JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH: THE LORD MY COMPANION

Psalm 46:7

“The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.”

The Glory of His Holy Name

JEHOVAH-MEAKDDISHKEM: THE LORD WHO SANCTIFIES

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.”

The Glory of His Holy Name

JEHOVAH-NISSI: THE LORD IS MY BANNER

2 Chronicles 20:15

“And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, The LORD Is My Banner...”

(The Lord is my banner, which probably refers to the lifting up of the rod of God as a banner in this action. The presence and power of Jehovah were the banner under which they enlisted, by which they were animated and kept together, and therefore which they erected in the day of their triumph.)

The Glory of His Holy Name

JEHOVAH-RAPHA: THE LORD WHO HEALS

Psalm 147:3

“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”

The Impact of delighting in **The Glory of His Holy Name**

Habakkuk 1:12-13a

“Are you not from everlasting, O LORD my God, my Holy One?
We shall not die. O LORD, you have ordained them as a judgment,
and you, O Rock, have established them for reproof. You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and
cannot look at wrong...”

- He is turning from his perplexity and doubt.
- He is beginning to think rightly about the authority and sovereignty of God.
- He is focusing on His attributes found in His Names.
- He is finding sufficient resource to lay to rest his anxiety, indignation, fear of man and to put to death his carnal nature that is the basis for his perplexity and doubt.

The impact of delighting in **The Glory of His Holy Name**

1:13b-2:1

Why do you idly look at traitors and remain silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he? You make mankind like the fish of the sea, like crawling things that have no ruler. He brings all of them up with a hook; he drags them out with his net; he gathers them in his dragnet; so he rejoices and is glad. Therefore he sacrifices to his net and makes offerings to his dragnet; for by them he lives in luxury, and his food is rich. Is he then to keep on emptying his net and mercilessly killing nations forever? I will take my stand at my watch post and station myself on the tower, and look out to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint.

The impact of delighting in **The Glory of His Holy Name**

- He continues his lament in a worshipful manner.
- He asks his questions sober to the fact He is not God and that he lacks the knowledge to gain a sufficient answer.
- He is looking to God in faith and expresses his emotional upheaval looking for the calming effect of God's next reply.
- He is ready to receive answers in a teachable manner.

He continues **The Glory of His Holy Name**

Habakkuk 2:2-19

“And the Lord answered me: “Write the vision make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it. For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay. “Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith. “Moreover, win is a traitor, an arrogant man who is never at rest. His greed is as wide as Sheol; like death he has never enough. He gathers for himself all nations and collects as his own all peoples.” Woe to the Chaldeans.”

He continues **The Glory of His Holy Name**

Habakkuk 2:2-19

“Shall not all these take up their taunt against him, with scoffing and riddles for him, and say, “Woe to him who heaps up what is not his own— for how long?— and loads himself with pledges!” Will not your debtors suddenly arise, and those awake who will make you tremble? Then you will be spoil for them. Because you have plundered many nations, all the remnant of the peoples shall plunder you, for the blood of man and violence to the earth, to cities and all who dwell in them. “Woe to him who gets evil gain for his house, to set his nest on high, to be safe from the reach of harm! You have devised shame for your house by cutting off many peoples; you have forfeited your life. For the stone will cry out from the wall and the beam from the woodwork respond.”

He continues **The Glory of His Holy Name**

Habakkuk 2:2-19

“Woe to him who builds a town with blood and founds a city on iniquity! Behold, is it not from the Lord of hosts that peoples labor merely for fire, and nations weary themselves for nothing? For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

“Woe to him who makes his neighbors drink— you pour out your wrath and make them drunk, in order to gaze at their nakedness! You will have your fill of shame instead of glory.

Drink, yourself, and show your uncircumcision! The cup in the Lord's right hand will come around to you, and utter shame will come upon your glory! The violence done to Lebanon will overwhelm you, as will the destruction of the beasts that terrified them, for the blood of man and violence to the earth, to cities and all who dwell in them.

He continues **The Glory of His Holy Name**

Habakkuk 2:2-19

“What profit is an idol when its maker has shaped it, a metal image, a teacher of lies? For its maker trusts in his own creation when he makes speechless idols! Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake; to a silent stone, Arise! Can this teach? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in it. But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.”

Summary

- God gives Habakkuk a command, Habakkuk obeys without question.
- God commands Habakkuk to be patient by resting in Him.
- God gives Habakkuk a comparison of His Holy Names to the carnal fallen nature of man.
- God assures Habakkuk that He is...

Let's look at more Holy Names Of God!!!

The Glory of His Holy Name

ADONAI: THE LORD MY GREAT GOD; OUR TOTAL AUTHORITY

Psalm 8:1

“O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth,
who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens!”

The Glory of His Holy Name

ELOHIM: THE ALL POWERFUL ONE (CREATOR)

Genesis 1:1

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

The Glory of His Holy Name

EL SHADDAI: THE ALL ALMIGHTY ONE

Genesis 17:1-3

Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him,
“I am God Almighty...”

The impact of delighting in **The Glory of His Holy Name**

Habakkuk 3

“A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, according to Shigionoth.

² O LORD, I have heard the report of you,
and your work, O LORD, do I fear.
In the midst of the years revive it;
in the midst of the years make it known;
in wrath remember mercy.

³ God came from Teman,
and the Holy One from Mount Paran. *Selah*
His splendor covered the heavens,
and the earth was full of his praise.

⁴ His brightness was like the light;
rays flashed from his hand;
and there he veiled his power.

⁵ Before him went pestilence,
and plague followed at his heels.

The impact of delighting in **The Glory of His Holy Name**

Habakkuk 3

⁶He stood and measured the earth;
he looked and shook the nations;
then the eternal mountains were scattered;
the everlasting hills sank low.
His were the everlasting ways.

⁷I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction;
the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble.

⁸Was your wrath against the rivers, O LORD?
Was your anger against the rivers,
or your indignation against the sea,
when you rode on your horses,
on your chariot of salvation?

⁹You stripped the sheath from your bow,
calling for many arrows. *Selah*
You split the earth with rivers.

¹⁰The mountains saw you and writhed;
the raging waters swept on;
the deep gave forth its voice;
it lifted its hands on high.

The impact of delighting in **The Glory of His Holy Name**

Habakkuk 3

¹¹The sun and moon stood still in their place
at the light of your arrows as they sped,
at the flash of your glittering spear.

¹²You marched through the earth in fury;
you threshed the nations in anger.

¹³You went out for the salvation of your people,
for the salvation of your anointed.

You crushed the head of the house of the wicked,
laying him bare from thigh to neck. *Selah*

¹⁴You pierced with his own arrows the heads of his warriors,
who came like a whirlwind to scatter me,
rejoicing as if to devour the poor in secret.

¹⁵You trampled the sea with your horses,
the surging of mighty waters.

The impact of delighting in **The Glory of His Holy Name**

Habakkuk 3

¹⁷Though the fig tree should not blossom,
nor fruit be on the vines,
the produce of the olive fail
and the fields yield no food,
the flock be cut off from the fold
and there be no herd in the stalls,
¹⁸yet I will rejoice in the LORD;
I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

¹⁹ GOD, the Lord, is my strength;
he makes my feet like the deer's;
he makes me tread on my high places.

To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments.”

The impact of delighting in **The Glory of His Holy Name**

Habakkuk 3

- Habakkuk is now in humble prayer before the One Whose Name is Holy.
- He is in a proper mindset of reverential fear and dependence before the Holy One.
- He confesses The Holy One as Savior.
- He brings to remembrance God's mighty deeds only He can do.
- He is now able to put himself in his proper place thinking soberly about who he is because of Who He is and what He has done and continues to on his behalf.

Applicable Assurance

Habakkuk has experienced that God is fully capable of growing our faith from one of perplexity and doubt to the height of full assurance and absolute trust in Him by delighting in the Glory Of His Holy Names.

Road Map for Our Transformation

Philippians 3:7-11

“⁷But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, ⁹and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith, ¹⁰that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; ¹¹in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

Road Map for Our Transformation Philippians 3:12-16

“¹² Not that I have already obtained *it* or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. ¹³ Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; ¹⁶ however, let us keep living by that same *standard* to which we have attained.”

Road Map for Our Transformation

Philippians 3:17-21

“¹⁷ Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. ¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* enemies of the cross of Christ, ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is *their* appetite, and *whose* glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. ²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; ²¹ who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.”