



Habakkuk – When Faith Gets Real

Wk. 3 “Responding”

By Pastor Jody May

Woe to the Chaldeans

⁶ 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!”

⁷ Will not your debtors suddenly arise,

and those awake who will make you tremble?

Then you will be spoil for them.

⁸ 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.

⁹ “Woe to him who gets evil gain for his house,

to set his nest on high,
to be safe from the reach of harm!

¹⁰ You have devised shame for your house

by cutting off many peoples;
you have forfeited your life.

¹¹ For the stone will cry out from the wall,

and the beam from the woodwork respond.

¹² “Woe to him who builds a town with blood

and finds a city on iniquity!

¹³ Behold, is it not from the Lord of hosts

that peoples labor merely for fire,
and nations weary themselves for nothing?

¹⁴ For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord

as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁵ “Woe to him who makes his neighbors drink—

you pour out your wrath and make them drunk,
in order to gaze at their nakedness!

¹⁶ 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!

¹⁷ The violence done to Lebanon will overwhelm you,

as will the destruction of the beasts that terrified them,



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for the blood of man and violence to
the earth,
to cities and all who dwell in them.

¹⁸ “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!

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.
²⁰ But the Lord is in his holy temple;
let all the earth keep silence before
him.”

¹⁹ Woe to him who says to a wooden

Intro:

We have been tracking Habakkuk for two weeks. He received an Oracle from God, a real weighty vision, for what was going to happen to his people. On the heels of losing the last good king Hab was shown that the end was coming for the nation of Israel. God was allowing some of **the worst type of people to commence with the judgment**. He questioned God, God answered rightly - you wouldn't understand what I am about to do.

We saw in that first encounter that he took in some hard truth, this hard truth made him **turn to God instead of away**. He saw the future, decided to cling to God, and he lamented over, he grieved about what was about to happen. By lamenting we discovered that is when we are able to move on, stop blaming and help other people.

In the next encounter we saw how he responded with patience. He decided to stay with the people, to continue to watch out for what God would do. He looked to **get a little perspective**, he committed to being obedient in his calling as a prophet. He learned, as I had hoped we are learning, **that patience can bring joy, when we wait on the Lord!** We were reminded of how Jesus has waited on us already and will wait on those who are His for, **“the righteous shall live by their faith”**.



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We come to this weird part in the story. Because Habakkuk has done the moral, the right, the gospel centered thing and now **he begins to respond**. He begins to let the Babylonians know, just what he thinks about them before they ever arrive! **He Taunts** - He is declaring their doom, that justice will come for them, he is looking past what will happen to the end when they will get theirs. His hope is in something that he cannot see, which according to Hebrews that is the definition of having faith.

I have to tell you this **makes me very envious** of Hab, because **I really want to be like that**. I don't want to be fake with you, I love you, but I don't know if I have what it takes to give the, “Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord” speech, or to just say, “well God is Sovereign” and go on about my life. It seems that **Hab is full of emotion AND worship**. It's different than what were used to, we sing songs about what Jesus has done, he's giving praise and taunting the Babylonians knowing God will do something but has no clue how or through whom! **THAT IS FAITH!**

This reminds me of when I was waiting for my parents to die.... I knew it was coming, knew there was no stopping it, I was forced to be patient with the process, I couldn't leave, and I had to ride it out. So, during this time with you I want to recognize, that bad things happen. We are in just as much peril as the rest of the world, the question though is, **will our actions show that we believe like the rest of the world?**

My prayer is that we will understand that when Faith gets Real our **Faith responds with praise even in the midst of anguish!** Perhaps if we can realize that today, maybe our hearts can start catching up with our minds and create in us hearts that don't just drag over the next two months but can rejoice and hope in what God will do, just like Habakkuk.

Now, to do this we need to go back and discover how did Habakkuk develop this heart that was ready to worship and taunt and to do this we are going to squeeze a little bit more Gospel Juice out of chapter 1:



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1. Take to God your Questions not your Accusations.

On Hab 1:12-17 Hab just lets it fly at God:

¹² 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.

¹³ You who are of purer eyes than to see evil
and cannot look at wrong,
why do you idly look at traitors
and remain silent when the wicked swallows up
the man more righteous than he?

- “Are you not everlasting?” – v.12
- “Why do you look at traitors and do nothing?” – v.13

There is desperation in his voice. These are the questions of not understanding but they are **not the cries of “it’s not fair,” nor the cries of “But I’m innocent”**.

Questions, and I mean of the type as, “Why Lord does this have to happen now? I am worried about my loved ones, my children, my elderly parents, my own life, I’m in charge of people depending on me, I can’t handle this pressure! Why did this happen like this when everyone is concerned about their outcomes, **no one is available to reassure me for they are busy with their own lamenting?”**

While I can’t answer those questions for you, here’s what I am learning from Hab about God - **1st you will not surprise God with your questions and emotions.** God never flinches when you curse under your breath, when you punch a wall, when you throw something across the room, or issue a death threat when you drive, it never takes God off-guard. Remember we learned in Luke 11 that God knows all the intentions of the heart and unforeseen motives and will be able to judge rightly every human being that has ever lived. Your response to difficulty will not surprise Him.



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Luke 12: 2-3 ESV

² Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ³ Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops.

I also know this, that you will not get a quicker answer by trying to bait and accuse God. Job’s dilemma was not quickened, and neither will ours be. To accuse God is to determine that we have the right perspective to judge the almighty; you know what is right, not God. You actually believe that with your limited foresight that you can make better decisions than God can. You see when I say it, it sounds foolish doesn’t it? But **despair makes insane thought sane.**

Now, this is where I think we can get a little more out of this story of Hab, if we **squeeze it a little more** out of Chp. 1. Hab doesn’t try to answer for God but while he’s talking he **remembers about who He is talking about:**

2. Remember God’s Character.

(you can put verses 12-13 here as I will be mentioning them)

- **Eternal** (v.12 – *Everlasting*) – He has no beginning and no end that means he’s infinite and we are finite. **We lack understanding He has all understanding.** Someone, not us, saw the beginning because He started it and He sees the end because He’s already there.
- **Sovereign** (v.12 *you established them for our correction*) – Because He’s eternal, because He’s the creator not the created, it means He rules over all things. Yes, even evil things because **all things were created “Good” and fell into their state by man’s choice**, BUT man’s rebellion did not deliver man out of God’s hands. It is because of God’s sovereignty that the human race even still exists!
- **Personal** - (v. 12 *my Holy one*) – covenantal language, you are my God and we are your people, you can be known, your name you have shared with us. We are not a science experiment to God, He desired a relationship and sought Abraham out to develop a people for Himself. God is glorified when



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a people relate to Him, He is known to the nations by how He relates to His people.

- **Holy** (v.12 & v. 13 purer eyes) – He is set apart by righteousness, He is other worldly, for He is not fallen, He is not tainted, and He cannot ever be tainted, swayed, or seduced by man.
- **Foreknowing** (v. 12 ordained and established) – God, you knew what we will do, you knew they would come, you know we all won’t die, and so you know how to preserve your remnant. You have seen all outcomes and therefore the one you pick is the perfect one to do what must be done; Unite all things in Christ while receiving the most glory for it!

The issue we fight against, especially in a time of hardship, not just COVID 19, when a spouse has an affair, when a child rebels and runs from their upbringing, when a friend betrays your trust, when your job cuts you when you are more than productive, when you can’t seem to keep a relationship to save your life, when it seems like you will never catch a break – When all that happens day in and day out in our lives if we do not remember all that God is, **HIS CHARACTER, we will not question Him BUT we will accuse Him, we will not run to Him, we will run away from Him!**

***The righteous shall live by Faith* in the God of the Bible not the God of your choosing or making in our minds. That is Faith Getting Real!**

For many in the church we have made God out **NOT to be a loving Father that graciously gives but a warden in a prison that rewards for good behavior that can get us parole if we catch his attention.** Hab, still clung to God even when he recognized that we are like fish (v.14)! But Hab rests in the character of God and knows that in his future if it means his death it does not mean that God does not care for Him, that His intentions were to do harm for the sake of harm, **because God is personal and knows Hab as a child.**

Then if I remember these things about God, then waiting on the Lord, being patient is not about being stoic; Just be patient and suck it up until its’ over. No, because one of the cool things about God, since He’s personal, is He is not



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interested in treating us as if we lived in a petri dish, but He wants a relationship w/us!

He uses these tough times to get us to **SEEK** Him, again, **are you STEWARDING your time well at home right now? He has preordained it to meet with you.**

Don't think that God does not predetermine to do multiple things at once. He doesn't get surprised with a pandemic and then say, “OH, I got your attention, Yeah!” No, He knows this virus would set out, He knew who would have more time on their hands, and even made some of you get more time on your hands, because He is waiting to talk with you, counsel you, hear your frustrations because He is personal!

3. Waiting... to Meet with God.

What greater joy is there than to believe that as a part of His overall plan for you existing right now at this moment is that the God of the universe wants to deepen His relationship with you? **He glorifies Himself by deepening and developing His relationship with you!**

Last week do you remember when we talked about waiting when Hab went high to get some perspective?

Hab. 2:1 ESV

I will take my stand at my watchpost
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.

While he was learning to be patient and not abandon his post look what else Hab was gaining from this perspective. *“look out to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint”...*

Hab, in solitary, waited on high to get perspective so that **he could hear from God and to escape the noise of man.** A lot of you right now, let me just be lovingly truthful with all of us, will not reach out to your Bibles in the quiet of the morning.



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Your first move is to your phone to check on Social Media what is happening, or you will look to the news to get the update for the day. It is as if you want your day to start with someone else’s motives and opinions **perhaps because you lack your own**. God is interested in your relationship and is willing to put a good spin on your day rather than you resenting Him for not making it look like those you see in your feeds.

If you have despaired this past week that is your clue that you need to break away and seek God. Listen, the people in our homes, they have a limit to how much they can help you, there is a limit to how much they can hear you complain, there is a limit to how much they can put up with if your destructive habits But God is more than capable of handling all your emotional vomiting in your BUT you must be willing to be quiet and listen. That takes space and intentionality, are you willing to at least put that much effort into the most important relationship in your life?

4. We RESPOND with Worship (and Taunting).

(you can show the beginning verse slides her again to refer to)

Hab, has now done a great job of letting us see how he’s ready, even perhaps at the end of his life, worshiping God and taunting the enemy. He has questioned not accused because he remembers God’s character and has spent time gaining the right perspective. He’s now ready to respond...

Woe to Him who heaps up what is not his own – STEALING, which never satisfies for it comes from GREED. Greed leads people to taking what they have stolen and using it to amass debt! Scripture here says – the remnant of the people, that is God’s people will get what they took by force that was not theirs to have. In the end folks, when God comes a calling, when Jesus returns, He claims all because all is His and what is His is OURS! It doesn’t matter if and when it was taken from you because you not only get it back, but you get more. The only thing that the wicked have done is raked it all into one spot for God. That is why scripture (Luke 16) teaches that those who steward well will be given more! **God will give what they obtained by violence to you through the sweat of their brow, all for His people!**



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Woe to him who gets evil gain for his house so set his nest on high, to be safe from the reach of harm! Security, attorneys, trust, business assets, diversified accounts, those who were great at Saving but were horrible at understanding why they were good savers, **to serve others!** Remember that dude from Luke that built bigger barns!? When God comes it doesn't matter where you have your fortune, because Jesus resets all money values because all is based on His worth.

Woe to him who builds his town with blood and founds a city on iniquity. People that develop culture with no thought about what type of effect that will have on the world, they develop because they can, just because it makes money, just because it gives them power. God will reclaim all of this and as Adam was directed in the beginning to have dominion God will now take control and influence culture fully.

Woe to him who makes his neighbors drink. Those that revel in making the world immoral, that lift up the pursuit of pleasure as the absolute best thing there is as a false God to serve. When God returns You will finally get your fill of shame because you will now see His Holiness. Those that majored in this lifestyle will seem the most foolish to all and will know it and will lose its appeal.

Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake;

Those who make the created thing a God and given it absolute power. Those that have come to believe that Science is the new religion, that the proof of man's godhood is in his cleverness. The machines he creates and the knowledge he has gained will all show and prove God's existence, therefore learned knowledge is merely revealed knowledge of God.

I can see where Hab was going, but there is one more element here that I think brings this home where we all can worship and taunt a little.

5. Remember to let God have the Last Word.

²⁰ But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.”



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God says, I get the final WORD... Hab didn't know what I know, He didn't see who would come, we have.

Hebrews 1 - The Supremacy of God's Son

1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, **2** but **in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son**, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. **3** He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Jesus comes as the King, it is his kingdom, he stated why He came the world and the world rejected Him, and murdered Him to keep what they got by violence.

Jesus came because His servants did not share and steward rightly, so he took back His flock from Him servants and they killed Him for it.

Jesus came to His own royal city where His own home had been turned into a den of robbers and thieves and the priests killed Him when He tried to clean it up.

Jesus came lived with sinners, was born of a virgin and died a virgin, to show the rightful place for physical pleasures and the people called for Barabbas.

Jesus came and stood before Pilate, that represented Rome, Emperor Worship, and the pinnacle of humanistic achievement in that day and Pilate washed his hands.

My friends Hab didn't know His name but we do! His name is King Jesus! He came and died so that we who believe in Him, will live to see one day, even if it means we have to be resurrected, that God will have His day, victory will be His!

On top of all of that our King will share with us all that was taken, **after it is all made clean**, and it will all be used to declare God's Glory in all of Creation!



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Woe to all who don't call on His name for Salvation for you are defeated already and don't even know it! If you refuse Him your place will be in Hell where there is no enjoyment of life because Jesus gives meaning to life, not you, it is eternal torment.

Victory as you will see has already been sealed by His work on the cross. Now the world will witness again next week why we rejoice because our King is alive! The grave could not hold Him, death and the devil were defeated, and what we endure is the bite of a dying serpent.

Today my family, worship what Jesus will accomplish this Holy week, and look forward to that day when all will be made right again by His mighty hand.

PRAY

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father, who's character we can trust ensuring that He will be victorious, all will be made right, and we all will see that day.

Go in the name of the Son, that endured the most tragic of lives so that we could be saved enabling us to receive joy from seeing His victories!

Go in the name and the power of the HS, that opens our eyes to the ultimate victories in the future while helping us live out of those promises now...