

How LONG, LORD?

HABAKKUK BIBLE STUDY

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS

HABAKKUK: "HOW LONG, LORD?"

Nov. 27 – Habakkuk's First Complaint and the Lord's Answer (1:1-11)

Dec. 4 – Habakkuk's Second Complaint and the Lord's Answer (1:12-2:20)

Dec. 11 – Habakkuk's Prayer and Praise (3)

Nov. 27 – Habakkuk’s First Complaint and the Lord’s Answer (1:1-11)

Who is this guy? Habakkuk 1:1

Discuss: How does your approach to Habakkuk differ from the way you might approach other ancient books? How is your approach to this book different from the way an unbeliever or liberal false teacher would approach it? Defend your approach.

What’s his problem? Habakkuk 1:2-4

List some things which cause the righteous to cry out today to the Lord. What parallels do you see between those cries and what Habakkuk records in his complaint?

The Lord’s Response Habakkuk 1:5-11

Look for the verses which give a clue for when we can place Habakkuk on a timeline.

Describe the Babylonians who were prophesied to come.

Explain how the Lord’s response required faith on the part of Habakkuk.

What things are there prophesied for us today that seem like they will be impossible to come to fulfillment?

Read 2 Kings 24-25:21 See how this prophecy was fulfilled. Do you suppose this was the answer Habakkuk was hoping for? Explain how this fulfillment of prophecy was a fulfillment of the will of God for his people.

Agree or Disagree: The Lord’s actions against wickedness in history are shadow of what will ultimately come upon all wickedness.

Apply: What does the Lord’s response to Habakkuk remind the believer today who cries out with the same complaint?

Connecting the prophets to the Christ: What do we learn in this section about the need for a Savior? What does this section reveal about God’s grace? What does this section reveal about God’s control over nations and history to accomplish his prophecy and purposes? What does it teach about God’s timing?

The wicked destroy the wicked? Next time we will cover this topic.

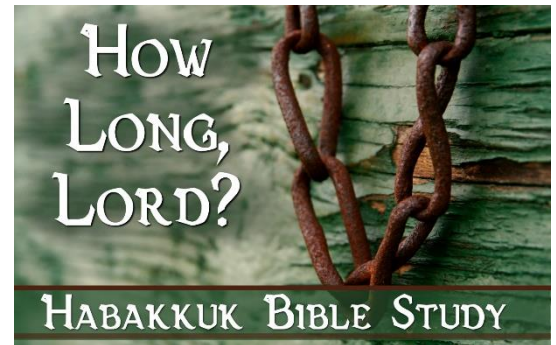
DEC 4 – Habakkuk’s Second Complaint and the Lord’s Answer (1:12-2:20)

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Now What’s the Problem? Habakkuk 1:12 – 2:1

Summarize Habakkuk’s complaint against the Lord’s solution for Judah’s wickedness.

Understand the point and Relate: What does the net of the wicked represent in Habakkuk’s complaint? How does the Babylonian warrior regard his “net”? What are the nets of wicked in the world around you today?



Evaluate Habakkuk’s method for resolving his complaint against the Lord’s methods.

Just you Wait! Habakkuk 2:2-4

Find the Point: What is the Lord’s answer and most important reminder for Habakkuk and frustrated believers?

Analyze: Look at the NIV translation of 2:4b. Compare with Ro 1:17; Gal 3:11; Heb 10:37–38. What translation option would be more faithful to what is meant here, the footnote translation or just as is translated? Why is it important to recognize the difference in meaning here?

Woe to...! Habakkuk 2:5-20

Find and List: What is pronounced with the five “Woes” against Babylon?

Identify and Compare: Find the different false securities that the Babylonians were clinging to in these five woes. Compare that with the false securities everyone is tempted to cling to when arrogance goes in hand with doing evil.

Read Psalm 2. Describe how this Psalm is fulfilled in Christ. How does this the book of Habakkuk serve as a companion commentary on Psalm 2?

Summary: What ultimate reminder comes with 2:20? What world of difference comes with the word “all”?

Connecting to Christ: How does this section lead us to see the Christ and his kingdom?

Apply: What response would you give to the frustrated believer who only sees the wicked replacing the wicked and not the righteous?

Next time – **Habakkuk’s Prayer and Praise (3)**

DEC 11 – Habakkuk’s Prayer and Praise (3)

The Lord is faithful Habakkuk 3:1-2

Understand: What is meant by “in wrath remember mercy” (Compare Isaiah 54:8)

What does Habakkuk rely on for strength?

In Awe of Your Deeds Habakkuk 3:3-15

Relate some of the events from Bible history which Habakkuk alludes to here.

I will be joyful Habakkuk 3:16-20

Understand: How badly did the news of the coming Babylonian invasion effect Habakkuk? What types of bad news can do this to us?

Agree or Disagree: God made it possible for Habakkuk to tolerate and endure hard times.

Apply 2:17-18 to your life. Share an example in which this confession of faith or one like it brought you or another encouragement to endure.

Psalm 37 contains many repeating truths found in the book of Habakkuk. Look for a verse or two in that Psalm which summarizes the theme of Habakkuk.

Explain our source of joy to a believer in the following circumstances:

Ralph is struggling to make ends meet. He always thought that God had greatly blessed him, and he enjoyed great success in the past. Now he is in debt and soon will have to declare bankruptcy. He wonders why God allowed this to happen to him and is drifting away from his trust in the Lord.

Jamie has never enjoyed much wealth. She grew up in poverty and always considered her family the poorest she knew. Now she is suddenly getting promoted and earning much more than her parents ever did. She has a nice home and family and career. He works keeps her from actively spending time in the Word of the Lord with her family. She rarely finds time in her busy schedule for regular worship anymore. She feels secure and that God has blessed her because he is pleased with her hard work.

In Your Own Experience: How has God enabled you to live light-footed like a deer/light-hearted even when it goes against the situation you are in? (2:19)

Connecting to Christ: What titles for God in this section are ultimately fulfilled in Christ? How does Habakkuk’s confession in this section help us understand what he means in 2:4b “the righteous will live by faith.”

