

The Just Shall Live by Faith

Lesson 13: Habakkuk 1-3

August 25, 2019

Review

- Creation
- Fall
- Flood
- The Gospel given to Abraham
- The Lord will provide a lamb
- Jacob and Esau
- The Passover lamb
- The Old Covenant
- A king and a kingdom
- The suffering servant
- The New Covenant
- The valley of dry bones

Outline

- 1:1-4 Complaint about Israel
- 1:5-11 God will judge Israel with the Chaldeans
- 1:12-2:1 Complaint about the Chaldeans
- 2:2-20 God will judge the proud
- 3:1-19 Prayer of faith

Complaint about Israel Habakkuk 1:1-4

¹The oracle which Habakkuk the prophet saw.

²How long, O LORD, will I call for help,
And You will not hear?
I cry out to You, "Violence!"
Yet You do not save.

³Why do You make me see iniquity,
And cause *me* to look on wickedness?
Yes, destruction and violence are before me;
Strife exists and contention arises.

⁴Therefore the law is ignored
And justice is never upheld.
For the wicked surround the righteous;
Therefore justice comes out perverted.

- Complaints
 - He cries, but God doesn't hear (act)
 - No salvation
 - The law is ignored
 - Justice is perverted
- God's own people were doing this

God will judge Israel with the Chaldeans Habakkuk 1:5-8

⁵“Look among the nations! Observe!
Be astonished! Wonder!
Because *I am* doing something in your days—
You would not believe if you were told.
⁶“For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans,
That fierce and impetuous people
Who march throughout the earth
To seize dwelling places which are not theirs.
⁷“They are dreaded and feared;
Their justice and authority originate with
themselves.
⁸“Their horses are swifter than leopards
And keener than wolves in the evening.
Their horsemen come galloping,
Their horsemen come from afar;
They fly like an eagle swooping *down* to
devour.

- God’s ways are astonishing
- God would use the Chaldeans to punish His people

God will judge Israel with the Chaldeans Habakkuk 1:9-11

⁹“All of them come for violence.
Their horde of faces *moves* forward.
They collect captives like sand.
¹⁰“They mock at kings
And rulers are a laughing matter to them.
They laugh at every fortress
And heap up rubble to capture it.
¹¹“Then they will sweep through *like* the
wind and pass on.
But they will be held guilty,
They whose
strength is their god.”

- Although used by God, the Chaldeans would be held guilty
- The Chaldeans’ strength was their god

Complaint about the Chaldeans Habakkuk 1:12-14

¹²Are You not from everlasting,
O LORD, my God, my Holy One?

We will not die.

You, O LORD, have appointed them to judge;
And You, O Rock, have established them to
correct.

¹³*Your* eyes are too pure to approve evil,
And You can not look on wickedness *with
favor*.

Why do You look with favor

On those who deal treacherously?

Why are You silent when the wicked swallow
up

Those more righteous than they?

¹⁴*Why* have You made men like the fish of the
sea,

Like creeping things without a ruler over
them?

- Habakkuk acknowledges God's purpose in using the Chaldeans
- The problem
 - God is pure
 - The Chaldeans are evil
 - God is using the Chaldeans

Complaint about the Chaldeans Habakkuk 1:15-2:1

¹⁵*The Chaldeans* bring all of them up with a hook,
Drag them away with their **net**,
And gather them together in their **fishing net**.

Therefore they rejoice and are glad.

¹⁶Therefore they offer a sacrifice to their **net**
And burn incense to their **fishing net**;
Because through these things their catch is large,
And their food is plentiful.

¹⁷Will they therefore empty their **net**
And continually slay nations without sparing?

^{2:1}I will stand on my guard post
And station myself on the rampart;
And I will keep watch to see what He will speak to me,
And how I may reply when I am reproved.

- The Chaldeans don't acknowledge God for their success
- Will there be an end to their success?
- Is Habakkuk's attitude similar to Job's?

God will judge the
proud
Habakkuk 2:2-4

²Then the LORD answered me and said,
“Record the vision

And inscribe *it* on tablets,

That the one who reads it may run.

³“For the vision is yet for the appointed time;

It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail.

Though it tarries, wait for it;

For it will certainly come, it will not delay.

⁴“Behold, as for the proud one,

His soul is not right within him;

But the righteous will live by his faith.

- God will work in His own time
- God’s plans will not fail
- Pride is contrary to faith
- Faith needs to be a way of life

God will judge the proud

Habakkuk 2:5-7

⁵“Furthermore, wine betrays the haughty man,
So that he does not stay at home.
He enlarges his appetite like Sheol,
And he is like death, never satisfied.
He also gathers to himself all nations
And collects to himself all peoples.
⁶“Will not all of these take up a taunt-song
against him,
Even mockery *and* insinuations against him
And say, ‘**Woe** to him who increases what is
not his—
For how long—
And makes himself rich with loans?’
⁷“Will not your creditors rise up suddenly,
And those who collect from you awaken?
Indeed, you will become plunder for them.

- Five woes
 - 2:6 takes what is not his
 - 2:9 dishonest gain
 - 2:12 violent person
 - 2:15 debauched person
 - 2:19 idolatrous person

God will judge the proud Habakkuk 2:8-12

⁸“Because you have looted many nations,
All the remainder of the peoples will loot
you—
Because of human bloodshed and violence
done to the land,
To the town and all its inhabitants.
⁹“**Woe** to him who gets evil gain for his house
To put his nest on high,
To be delivered from the hand of calamity!
¹⁰“You have devised a shameful thing for
your house
By cutting off many peoples;
So you are sinning against yourself.
¹¹“Surely the stone will cry out from the wall,
And the rafter will answer it from the
framework.
¹²“**Woe** to him who builds a city with
bloodshed
And founds a town with violence!

- What they did would come back on them
- Sin is against
 - God
 - Others
 - Ourselves

God will judge the
proud
Habakkuk 2:13-16

¹³“Is it not indeed from the LORD of hosts
That peoples toil for fire,

And nations grow weary 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 you who make your neighbors
drink,

Who mix in your venom even to make *them*
drunk

So as to look on their nakedness!

¹⁶“You will be filled with disgrace rather than
honor.

Now you yourself drink and expose your *own*
nakedness.

The cup in the LORD’s right hand *will come*
around to you,

And utter disgrace will come upon your glory.

- There is no certainty in the work of man, but God will be glorified
- The cup of judgment will come to those who do evil

God will judge the proud

Habakkuk 2:17-20

¹⁷“For the violence done to Lebanon will overwhelm you,
And the devastation of *its* beasts by which you terrified them,
Because of human bloodshed and violence done to the land,
To the town and all its inhabitants.

¹⁸“What profit is the idol when its maker has carved it,
Or an image, a teacher of falsehood?
For *its* maker trusts in his *own* handiwork
When he fashions speechless idols.

¹⁹“**Woe** to him who says to a *piece of wood*,
‘Awake!’

To a mute stone, ‘Arise!’
And that is *your* teacher?
Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver,
And there is no breath at all inside it.

²⁰“But the LORD is in His holy temple.
Let all the earth be silent before Him.”

• Structure

- First woe
- Refrain: because of human bloodshed and violence...
- Second woe
- Third woe
- The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord
- Fourth woe
- Refrain: because of human bloodshed and violence...
- Fifth woe
- The Lord is in His holy temple

Prayer of faith Habakkuk 3:1-5

¹A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet,
according to Shigionoth.

²LORD, I have heard the report about You and
I fear.

O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the
years,
In the midst of the years make it known;
In wrath remember mercy.

³God comes from Teman,
And the Holy One from Mount Paran. *Selah*.
His splendor covers the heavens,
And the earth is full of His praise.

⁴*His* radiance is like the sunlight;
He has rays *flashing* from His hand,
And there is the hiding of His power.

⁵Before Him goes pestilence,
And plague comes after Him.

- Requests
 - Revive Your work
 - Make Your work known
 - In wrath remember mercy
- Pictures of God's judgment and salvation

Prayer of faith Habakkuk 3:6-9

⁶He stood and surveyed the earth;
He looked and startled the nations.
Yes, the perpetual mountains were
shattered,
The ancient hills collapsed.
His ways are everlasting.

⁷I saw the tents of Cushan under distress,
The tent curtains of the land of Midian were
trembling.

⁸Did the LORD rage against the rivers,
Or *was* Your anger against the rivers,
Or *was* Your wrath against the sea,
That You rode on Your horses,
On Your chariots of salvation?

⁹Your bow was made bare,
The rods of chastisement were sworn. *Selah.*

- God's anger isn't against creation,
but against sinful man

Prayer of faith Habakkuk 3:10-13

¹⁰The mountains saw You *and* quaked;
The downpour of waters swept by.
The deep uttered forth its voice,
It lifted high its hands.

¹¹Sun *and* moon stood in their places;
They went away at the light of Your arrows,
At the radiance of Your gleaming spear.

¹²In indignation You marched through the
earth;

In anger You trampled the nations.

¹³You went forth for the salvation of Your
people,

For the salvation of Your anointed.

You struck the head of the house of the evil

To lay him open from thigh to neck. *Selah*.

- God's power is often manifested in creation at His coming
- God saves His people

Prayer of faith Habakkuk 3:14-16

¹⁴You pierced with his own spears
The head of his throngs.
They stormed in to scatter us;
Their exultation was like those
Who devour the oppressed in secret.
¹⁵You trampled on the sea with Your horses,
On the surge of many waters.
¹⁶I heard and my inward parts trembled,
At the sound my lips quivered.
Decay enters my bones,
And in my place I tremble.
Because I must wait quietly for the day of
distress,
For the people to arise *who* will invade us.

- God's punishments fit the crime
- Distress does have an affect on those who believe
- Faith waits quietly for the distress that will come

Prayer of faith Habakkuk 3:17-19

¹⁷Though the fig tree should not blossom
And there be no fruit on the vines,
Though the yield of the olive should fail
And the fields produce no food,
Though the flock should be cut off from the
fold
And there be no cattle in the stalls,
¹⁸Yet I will exult in the LORD,
I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.
¹⁹The Lord GOD is my strength,
And He has made my feet like hinds' *feet*,
And makes me walk on my high places.
For the choir director, on my stringed
instruments.

- Praise is required in all circumstance
- God is the God of salvation
- God is our strength

Use in the New Testament

- Acts 13:41
- Romans 1:17
- Galatians 3:11
- Hebrews 10:38

Summary

- The righteous will live by faith
- Although God's work seems delayed, we need to wait for it
- Pride is contrary to faith
- Even in judgment God remembers mercy
- We must wait quietly in the day of distress
- Though we lose everything, we need to exult in the Lord and rejoice in the God of our salvation