

Pray and Ponder

Habakkuk

Lesson #3

Please always begin and end your study time in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind to receive from God's Word.

So far in our study we have seen the prophet wonder and worry as he questioned God's plan. Then we saw Habakkuk go up into the watchtower to wait for an answer from God and to write the things that God showed him. We are witnessing a revival that is taking place in Habakkuk's life because of his willingness to be corrected (Habakkuk 2:1) and his desire to learn to "live by faith" in spite of the coming desolation to his nation (Habakkuk 2:4). Habakkuk is climbing steadily up from the lowlands of despair and heading for a pinnacle of praise and worship. As his feet take him higher and higher, his faith grows and deepens. Stop for a moment and think about the things you may have learned so far. Is your heart ready to receive God's correction and are you learning to live by faith in spite of your circumstances or problems? Habakkuk is learning and growing as God changes him. How are you learning and growing as you study this book.

The Prophet Prays

1. What do we find Habakkuk doing in verse 1 of chapter 3?
2. According to Habakkuk 3:2, what was the prophet's initial reaction to the things God spoke to him in chapter 2. Also see Isaiah 66:2 and Psalm 119:120.
3. Habakkuk has moved from fretting about God's plan to walking in fear and awe. Why is this fear and awe so important to our spiritual growth? See the following verses:
 - a. Psalm 19:9
 - b. Psalm 34:9
 - c. Proverbs 1:7
 - d. Proverbs 9:10
 - e. I Peter 2:17

4. Do you sense in your own life a growing sense of fear and awe as you study this book?

5. Although Habakkuk is understandably frightened by what he has heard, he is now aligned and submitted to the will and work of God. What three things does Habakkuk pray for in 3:1,2?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

6. How is this prayer different than Habakkuk's questioning of God's plan in chapter 1?

The Prophet Ponders

Habakkuk now begins to recount and remember the glory and power of God. He remembers God's defense of the Jewish people as He led them out of Egypt through the wilderness and into the Promised Land.

1. Read Habakkuk 3:3-15. Find as many words or phrases as you can that describe God and His works.

2. In this section, Habakkuk is recounting the story told in the book of Exodus. Notice the progression of God's work in the following verses:
 - a. Habakkuk 3:3 God _____
 - b. Habakkuk 3:6 God _____
 - c. Habakkuk 3:12 God _____

As Habakkuk ponders the history of God's faithfulness to His people, his own faith grows. As he recounts and remembers the power and glory of God as revealed in the protection and deliverance of Israel, Habakkuk is revived in his own spirit and comes to a place where he can trust God unconditionally.

3. Now it is your turn to ponder the greatness of God's work in your own life. Use the blank pages to fill in as many facts and details as you can remember. The times that God came to your rescue....the times God stood in His strength and power in the midst of your troubles and fear.....and the times God marched and moved on your behalf and in your defense. Leave nothing out!!!

4. How has the writing and reading of your own history with God increased your faith and caused you to be both thankful and humbled by God's love and care for you. Take a moment and praise God for all He is and all He has done in your life. Record your praises and thanksgiving below.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.... Psalm 103:2

5. Read Habakkuk 3:16. When the prophet finished remembering and pondering the greatness of God in Habakkuk 3:3-15 he had an interesting physical reaction. What was it?
6. Although Habakkuk honestly describes his physical reaction to the coming judgment, right in the middle of this verse he makes a small but powerful statement of confidence in God. Find it and record it here.
7. Do you have that kind of rest? See Matthew 11:28, 29

No matter what your situation is today, look to God! Remember all He has done for you in the past and trust Him to continue to be faithful to you in the future. He came! He stood! He marched! And He will do it again! Therefore you can rest confidently in God and God alone. He will not fail you. He is faithful to the end. Read Hebrews 13:5