

## **HABAKKUK'S SPIRITUAL JOURNEY**

### **Habakkuk**

**1:1-4; 3:17-19**

#### **1:1-4**

**(1) The burden which Habakkuk the prophet did see. (2) O Lord, how long shall I cry, and Thou wilt not hear! Even cry out unto thee of violence, and Thou wilt not save! (3) Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance? For spoiling and violence are before me: and there are that raise up strife and contention. (4) Therefore the law is slacked, and judgement doth no go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgement proceedeth.**

#### **3:17-19**

**(17) Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: (18) Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. (19) The Lord God is my strength, and He will make my feet like hinds feet, and He will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.**

### **Introduction**

As short as it is, the book of Habakkuk, bristles with critical questions - questions that all of us have asked at one time or another. We may not have expressed these questions verbally, but I am sure they have resonated in our minds. The book opens with scenes of injustice, oppression, violence, corruption, and destruction. These were tough times. In addition to the immoral behavior, the crops were failing because of drought and infestation.

This book is unique because the prophet, Habakkuk is having a dialog with God. He is not prophesying to the people. He is having a heated dialog with God and he did not mince his words. Most of the translations are accurate, but they toned down Habakkuk's words.

During these three short chapters, Habakkuk goes on a spiritual journey; He goes from sad, to mad, to glad. Let's travel with Habakkuk on his spiritual and emotional journey. On this communion Sunday, let's hang out with Habakkuk.

## **Exposition**

### **1. A Perplexing Question To God.**

(Why Do You Allow Suffering And Evil To Exist?)  
 (Without Answers He Did Not Know What To Tell The People.)

### **2. A Painful Answer From God.**

(I Will Fix Things In My Own Time.)  
 (Divine Justice Is Slow.)  
 (I Will Use Pagans To Chastise My People.)  
 (There Are Somethings You Will Never Understand On This Side.)

### **3. A Profound Principle Of Successful Living.**

(The Just Shall Live By Faith.)  
 (I Can't Figure It Out-I Just Have To Trust God.)  
 (I Have Faith In The God Who Established The Scientific Principle.)

### **4. A Powerful Prayer Amid Perils.**

(Prayer Is Always in Order.)

### **5. A Personal Praise Proclamation.**

(I Will Praise God, No Matter What The Situation.)

## **Closing Statements**

We often ask “why” when things don’t go our way. Andre’ Crouch asked “why” when things do go our way. He expressed this idea in these lyrics:

“I don’t know why Jesus loves me. I don’t know why He cares. I don’t know why He sacrificed His life. Oh, but I’m glad! I’m glad He did.”

As we celebrate Holy Communion let us thank Jesus for shedding His precious, sinless blood while suffering on an old rugged cross on a hill called Calvary. Give God Glory!  
 Give God All The Glory!

## **Related Scriptures**

**Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38**

## **End Note**

I could not resist mentioning this. It is apparent that Habakkuk was a musician because he dedicated the book to his choirmaster. The last three verses of chapter three are the lyrics of a praise song he composed. He performed it on his own instruments. This leads to two beautiful aphorisms: “It is better to sing in the night than to sob during the day.” Happy is the singer whose songs are never silenced by sorrow.” Some of the greatest

sermons and songs are the products of the spiritual journeys of preachers, composers, and oppressed people.

**Copyright © 2022 by James C. Ward  
All Rights Reserved**