

What's Going On? (Even If...)

Habakkuk 1:1-11; 2:1-4; 3:1-2, 16-19

Habakkuk is a very short book, only three chapters. It is one of the books of the Old Testament known as the Minor Prophets, along with the books of Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. They are not called the Minor Prophets because they are insignificant, but simply because they are shorter in length compared to the other prophetic books in the OT, such as Isaiah and Jeremiah for example. The Minor Prophets, in fact, are grouped together as a single book in the Hebrew Bible.

Little is known about the prophet Habakkuk outside of what is written in the book that bears his name; however, Bible scholars have drawn several inductive conclusions that perhaps shed some insight into who this prophet was:

- The etymology of the name is not clear, and its form has no parallel in Hebrew. The name is possibly related to the Akkadian *khabbuququ*, the name of a fragrant plant, or the Hebrew root חבק, meaning "embrace" or "wrestle".
- Because the book of Habakkuk consists of five forewarnings about the Chaldeans (Babylonians), and the Chaldean rise to power is dated circa 612 BC, it is assumed he was active about that time.
- Because the final chapter of his book is a song, it is sometimes assumed that he was a member of the tribe of Levi, which served as musicians in Solomon's Temple.
- There is some Jewish thought that Habakkuk is the son born to the Shuminite woman through Elisha's blessings: "And he said, *About this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son. And she said, Nay, my lord, thou man of God, do not lie unto thine handmaid.*" 2 Kings 4:16, KJV)

Habakkuk's background is ambiguous, yet his prophetic ministry had tremendous influence. Even the apostle Paul in the New Testament used Habakkuk's declaration that "the just (righteous) shall live by faith: (*Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith. Habakkuk 2:4; ⁷For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.*) (Romans 1:17, KJV)

I. **What's Going On? (Even If Things Don't Seem to Make Sense to Me) Habakkuk 1:1-11**

Question: Like Job, Habakkuk had the audacity to question God. Is it ever okay for us to question God?

Scripture References: *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28, NIV)*

Spiritual Truth: Because God is sovereign, He can use anything or anybody any time and in any way He wants to— even a pandemic- to draw His people to Him.

II. **What Do I Do While "It" is Going On? (Even If I have to Wait on God) Habakkuk 2:1-4**

Question: Do you find it difficult to wait on God? What do you do while you wait?

Scripture References: "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." (Psalm 46:10, NIV)

I will listen to what God the LORD says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants— but let them not turn to folly. (Psalm 85:8, NIV)

He says, *But those who wait for the LORD [who expect, look for, and hope in Him] will gain new strength and renew their power; They will lift up their wings [and rise up close to God] like eagles [rising toward the sun]; they will run and not become weary, they will walk and not grow tired. (Isaiah 40:31, AMP)*

Spiritual Truth: God operates outside of time and space. His timing has no boundaries, so He manifests His will to us in His time, not ours.

- III. **How do I Find Peace While “It” is Going On? (Even If the Circumstances Look Bad) Habakkuk 3:1-2, 16-19**
After his conversation (prayer) with God, Habakkuk has a better understanding of how God is at work. Habakkuk’s faith is renewed and his spirit is lifted, even though “It (evil)” is still going on. As a result, Habakkuk sings a song of praise and trust in God.

Question: How do *you* find peace when you’re going through it (whatever your “it” is)?

Scripture Reference: *And we know [with great confidence] that God [who is deeply concerned about us] causes all things to work together [as a plan] for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His plan and purpose. (Romans 8:28, AMP)*

Spiritual Truth: When you’re going through and it seems like God is not attentive to your prayers, 1) be still, 2) let God speak to you; 3) worship Him; accept His answer, His will; and you will experience God’s peace that surpasses all understanding.