



The Book of Habakkuk

Flourish Women's Bible Study 2024



Study 1: Distress over injustice (Habakkuk 1:1–2:1)

1. How do you normally respond to evil and injustice in our world?

Read Habakkuk 1:1–4

1 The prophecy that Habakkuk the prophet received.

²How long, LORD, must I call for help,
but you do not listen?
Or cry out to you, ‘Violence!’
but you do not save?

³Why do you make me look at injustice?

Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?
Destruction and violence are before me;
there is strife, and conflict abounds.

⁴Therefore the law is paralysed,
and justice never prevails.
The wicked hem in the righteous,
so that justice is perverted.

Habakkuk 1:1–4 (NIVUK)

2. What is Habakkuk’s complaint?
3. What do you learn about Habakkuk?
4. What answer do you think Habakkuk is looking for?

Read Habakkuk 1:5–11

⁵‘Look at the nations and watch –
and be utterly amazed.
For I am going to do something in your days
that you would not believe,
even if you were told.

⁶I am raising up the Babylonians,
that ruthless and impetuous people,
who sweep across the whole earth
to seize dwellings not their own.

⁷They are a feared and dreaded people;
they are a law to themselves
and promote their own honour.

⁸Their horses are swifter than leopards,
fiercer than wolves at dusk.

Their cavalry gallops headlong;
their horsemen come from afar.
They fly like an eagle swooping to devour;
⁹ they all come intent on violence.

Their hordes advance like a desert wind
and gather prisoners like sand.

¹⁰They mock kings
and scoff at rulers.

They laugh at all fortified cities;
by building earthen ramps they capture
them.

¹¹Then they sweep past like the wind and go
on –
guilty people, whose own strength is their
god.’ **Habakkuk 1:5–11 (NIVUK)**

5. What surprises you about God’s answer? What does this answer show about God?

Read Habakkuk 1:12–2:1

¹²LORD, are you not from everlasting?
My God, my Holy One, you will never die.
You, LORD, have appointed them to execute
judgment;
you, my Rock, have ordained them to
punish.

¹³Your eyes are too pure to look on evil;
you cannot tolerate wrongdoing.
Why then do you tolerate the treacherous?
Why are you silent while the wicked
swallow up those more righteous than
themselves?

¹⁴You have made people like the fish in the sea,
like the sea creatures that have no ruler.

¹⁵The wicked foe pulls all of them up with
hooks,

he catches them in his net,
he gathers them up in his drag-net;
and so he rejoices and is glad.

¹⁶Therefore he sacrifices to his net
and burns incense to his drag-net,
for by his net he lives in luxury
and enjoys the choicest food.

¹⁷Is he to keep on emptying his net,
destroying nations without mercy?

2 I will stand at my watch
and station myself on the ramparts;
I will look to see what he will say to me,
and what answer I am to give to this
complaint.

Habakkuk 1:12–2:1 (NIVUK)

6. What is Habakkuk's second complaint?

7. What problem does God's answer present to Habakkuk? What are the Babylonians like?

8. How does chapter 2 verse 1 show Habakkuk's faith?

9. What would you say from Habakkuk 1:1–2:1 to:
 - (a) the person overwhelmed with the state of evil and injustice in our world?

 - (b) the person who sees everyone else's injustice but not their own?

 - (c) the person who has lost confidence that God will deal with injustice?

Study 2: God's justice (Habakkuk 2:2–20)

1. Can you think of examples of when evil has been judged in your lifetime?

Read Habakkuk 2:2–5

²Then the LORD replied:

‘Write down the revelation
and make it plain on tablets
so that a herald may run with it.

³For the revelation awaits an appointed time;
it speaks of the end
and will not prove false.
Though it lingers, wait for it;
it will certainly come
and will not delay.

⁴‘See, the enemy is puffed up;
his desires are not upright –
but the righteous person will live by his
faithfulness –

⁵indeed, wine betrays him;
he is arrogant and never at rest.
Because he is as greedy as the grave
and like death is never satisfied,
he gathers to himself all the nations
and takes captive all the peoples.

Habakkuk 2:2–5 (NIVUK)

2. How are the enemy and the righteous person contrasted in verse 4?

3. What do you think it means to live by faith?

Read Habakkuk 2:6–20

⁶‘Will not all of them taunt him with ridicule and
scorn, saying,

“Woe to him who piles up stolen goods
and makes himself wealthy by extortion!
How long must this go on?”

⁷Will not your creditors suddenly arise?
Will they not wake up and make you
tremble?

Then you will become their prey.

⁸Because you have plundered many nations,
the peoples who are left will plunder you.
For you have shed human blood;
you have destroyed lands and cities and
everyone in them.

⁹‘Woe to him who builds his house by unjust
gain,
setting his nest on high
to escape the clutches of ruin!

¹⁰You have plotted the ruin of many peoples,

shaming your own house and forfeiting
your life.

¹¹The stones of the wall will cry out,
and the beams of the woodwork will echo
it.

¹²‘Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed
and establishes a town by injustice!

¹³Has not the LORD Almighty determined
that the people's labour is only fuel for the
fire,
that the nations exhaust themselves for
nothing?

¹⁴For the earth will be filled with the knowledge
of the glory of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁵‘Woe to him who gives drink to his
neighbours,
pouring it from the wineskin till they are
drunk,

so that he can gaze on their naked bodies!
¹⁶You will be filled with shame instead of glory.
 Now it is your turn! Drink and let your
 nakedness be exposed!
 The cup from the LORD's right hand is coming
 round to you,
 and disgrace will cover your glory.
¹⁷The violence you have done to Lebanon will
 overwhelm you,
 and your destruction of animals will terrify
 you.
 For you have shed human blood;
 you have destroyed lands and cities and
 everyone in them.

¹⁸'Of what value is an idol carved by a
 craftsman?
 Or an image that teaches lies?
 For the one who makes it trusts in his own
 creation;
 he makes idols that cannot speak.
¹⁹Woe to him who says to wood, "Come to life!"
 Or to lifeless stone, "Wake up!"
 Can it give guidance?
 It is covered with gold and silver;
 there is no breath in it.'
²⁰The LORD is in his holy temple;
 let all the earth be silent before him.
Habakkuk 2:6-20 (NIVUK)

4. God's message of judgement on Babylon comes in the form of five woes. Underline each woe. Use the table below to summarise the sin mentioned in each woe, the coming judgement and how we see these sins in our world today in big and especially small ways.

Verses	Sin	Judgement	Expression today
vv. 6-8			
vv. 9-11			
vv. 12-14			
vv. 15-17			
vv. 18-20			

5. What do these sins show us about the human heart? How can we as society and individuals be repenting from and turning away from these sins?
6. Today, evil and injustice continue in our world and like in the case of Babylon sometimes this evil is carried out against God's people.
 How should we pray about the evil we witness in the media? What will you pray and for whom?

Study 3: God's salvation (Habakkuk 3:1–19)

1. What (if anything) gives you hope in the face of evil and injustice in our world?

Read Habakkuk 3:1–2

3 A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet. On *shigionoth*.

²LORD, I have heard of your fame;
I stand in awe of your deeds, LORD.

Repeat them in our day,
in our time make them known;
in wrath remember mercy.

Habakkuk 3:1–2 (NIVUK)

2. What does Habakkuk ask God to do? Why do you think he wants this?
3. What do you notice about Habakkuk's posture or tone? What can you learn from this?

Read Habakkuk 3:3–15

³God came from Teman,
the Holy One from Mount Paran.
His glory covered the heavens
and his praise filled the earth.

⁴His splendour was like the sunrise;
rays flashed from his hand,
where his power was hidden.

⁵Plague went before him;
pestilence followed his steps.

⁶He stood, and shook the earth;
he looked, and made the nations tremble.
The ancient mountains crumbled
and the age-old hills collapsed –
but he marches on for ever.

⁷I saw the tents of Cushan in distress,
the dwellings of Midian in anguish.

⁸Were you angry with the rivers, LORD?
Was your wrath against the streams?
Did you rage against the sea
when you rode your horses
and your chariots to victory?

⁹You uncovered your bow,
you called for many arrows.

You split the earth with rivers;
¹⁰ the mountains saw you and writhed.
Torrents of water swept by;
the deep roared
and lifted its waves on high.

¹¹Sun and moon stood still in the heavens
at the glint of your flying arrows,
at the lightning of your flashing spear.

¹²In wrath you strode through the earth
and in anger you threshed the nations.

¹³You came out to deliver your people,
to save your anointed one.
You crushed the leader of the land of
wickedness,
you stripped him from head to foot.

¹⁴With his own spear you pierced his head
when his warriors stormed out to scatter
us,

gloating as though about to devour
the wretched who were in hiding.

¹⁵You trampled the sea with your horses,
churning the great waters.

Habakkuk 3:3–15 (NIVUK)

4. These verses look back to the Exodus as God led his people out of Egypt through the sea to Mount Sinai, then through the desert into the land.

(a) From what you know of the Exodus story, what pictures do you recognise in Habakkuk's song? Why do you think Habakkuk goes over this event?

(b) In what ways do you take time to remember God's saving acts of the past? How does this or could this help you?

Read Habakkuk 3:16-19

¹⁶I heard and my heart pounded,
my lips quivered at the sound;
decay crept into my bones,
and my legs trembled.
Yet I will wait patiently for the day of calamity
to come on the nation invading us.

¹⁷Though the fig-tree does not bud
and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails
and the fields produce no food,

though there are no sheep in the sheepfold
and no cattle in the stalls,

¹⁸yet I will rejoice in the LORD,
I will be joyful in God my Saviour.

¹⁹The Sovereign LORD is my strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
he enables me to tread on the heights.

For the director of music. On my stringed
instruments.

Habakkuk 3:16-19 (NIVUK)

5. What does Habakkuk resolve to do?

6. How do these verses help you keep trusting in God no matter what?



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