


Our faith has a solid basis. Hence “the righteous WILL live by faith.” Habakkuk’s confidence is available to Christians today. We share a hope that will not perish.

When our faith is frustrated...

- Let us never doubt God - He is not being defeated.
- Let us draw hope from God’s holiness.
- Let us regroup our faith by focusing upon the Names and Character of our great God!

“O sometimes the shadows are deep, and rough seems the path to the goal;
And sorrows, sometimes how they sweep, Like tempests down over the soul!
O then to the Rock let me fly, to the Rock that is higher than I”
Erastus Johnson



TAKE-HOME LESSONS

1. God is ETERNAL—He is the great “I AM!
2. God is “JEHOVAH”—the self-existent One! He is dependent upon no one!
3. God is ELOHIM—the Almighty One!
4. God is the HOLY ONE—All He does is holy!
5. God is the ROCK—the place for security!

Our Next Lesson: “Honest Struggles for Honest Hearts”

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LESSON 7 : THE GOD WHO CANNOT IGNORE INJUSTICE!

A Study of Habakkuk

WHEN GOD SEEMS SILENT

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What do you do when everything appears hopeless? We often use an expression to describe our response - “Let’s drop back ten and punt!” It is time to start over again. Any further effort appears useless - maybe a beginning point elsewhere on the playing field will offer a better opportunity for success.

This phrase described Habakkuk’s maneuver in the text. God has answered the prophet’s earlier questions but God’s answers created more problems for Habakkuk. Habakkuk is perplexed about God’s consistency - how could a righteous God use an evil nation?

The current text begins Habakkuk’s struggle to resolve the apparent inconsistency. Habakkuk saw God’s plan compounding Judah’s problems, violate Jehovah’s holiness, and encourage the savagery of a brutish nation. Everything he heard about the “work” of God (1:5) only confused him more.

Habakkuk’s reconciliation started with a renewed look at the character of

Jehovah God. If the prophet could clarify God's character, then he would be able to place all events in perspective.

We are thus introduced to a fundamental lesson about God's character. A "digest" of the LORD God is presented. Habakkuk reaffirms vital factors of faith. Habakkuk conceded the Sovereignty of the LORD God Almighty (1:12b).

Habakkuk's response challenges us in the times we are beset with hard trials. In those situations we usually focus wholly upon the problem and forget God; we are unable to "live by faith." What we need to do is make a calm contemplation of Jehovah God and reaffirm his Sovereignty.

The perplexed prophet started over and found hope by recalling who God was.

Jehovah God is **ETERNAL** (1:12)

This is a significant fact. God's eternality prevents Him from changing. The way God has behaved in the past mandates how He is going to behave in the present and how He will behave in the future (Exodus 3:14). God is always current in time; His values never change; His standard is constant.

Whatever changes in life, one thing always will be the same—God! (Hebrews 13:8; 1 Timothy 1:17; 6:15-16; Psalm 90:2; Isaiah 46:4, 9, 11; Daniel 7:9).

There can be no greater comfort than this fact—God is outside the ever-changing history. God created history; He reigns over history (Deuteronomy 33:27; Malachi 3:6). His promises and purposes are as eternal as His being. What He has promised is eternal (Hebrews 6:17; Job 23:13).

Take comfort—whatever changes come or perils endanger, there is always one constant—God! Although the world's history changes—God will not! Although sin/evil may advance—God will not be moved! God's eternality brings stability! (Job 23:8-27)

Jehovah God is **SELF-EXISTENT** (1:12)

Habakkuk addresses God as "O LORD." This is the sacred title "Jehovah." God depends upon no one for existence. He is totally independent of and above all earthly forces. Since God is Jehovah, He is not bound by earthly forces and governments—He is above all (Proverbs 18:10; Habakkuk 3:18).

Jehovah God is **ALMIGHTY** (1:12)

The second title is ELOHIM and refers to God as the chief, supreme God of all power. This ELOHIM is so powerful that HE created all things with a word (Hebrews 11:3). This divine power is amazing (Ephesians 3:20; Revelation 19:1,9).

This awesome power gave Habakkuk's frustrated faith hope. Only God could

have "appointed" the Chaldeans and hence God was still in control. With God in control "fear" should vanish (Jeremiah 46:28).

The power of ELOHIM should bring comfort to Christians today. Whatever happens it cannot defy God's power! Whatever evil arises is under the ultimate control of a benevolent God.

"All the most furious friends in the universe are under His direction... Whatever mischief men design to inflict upon His people, He purposes to bring good out of it and His counsel shall stand."

Let us take refuge in the security of this Almighty God (2 Chronicles 16:9; Psalm 66:7). Those who do this will overcome the crises attacking their faith.

Jehovah God is the **HOLY ONE** (1:12, 13a)

This is the third title assuring Habakkuk that righteousness would triumph over evil. God's power is controlled by holiness (Psalm 115:3; 135:6). God cannot look with approval on sin; He cannot behold evil; His eyes are too pure (Isaiah 1:4; 6:3; Psalm 5:4-6).

Habakkuk's perplexity can be resolved by asking Abraham's question (Genesis 18:25). He knew that God's holiness would not allow Him to sanction evil. He knew that holiness would ultimately vindicate goodness. God is a "holy" God and this guarantees Christians that divine justice will triumph! Scripture validates this fact - justice is always rendered (Psalm 5:4).

Jehovah God is the **ROCK** (1:12)

This final title summarizes all previous points. The "Rock" is a fitting metaphor for God - it demonstrates His sure stability, a safe resting place, and constant support (Deuteronomy 32:4). God is perfect - His ways are constant, unchanging, and always reliable. His promises will not change.

God remains a "Rock" for Christians today. His promises are as firm today as in Habakkuk's time. He has "delivered" and will continue to deliver (2 Corinthians 1:10). Whatever changes, God the Rock will never change! Let us take refuge in this Rock! (2 Samuel 22:2-3, 47-51; Psalm 62:6-7). See hymn "*The Rock That Is Higher Than I.*"

Concluding Thoughts

Having reminded himself of God's character, Habakkuk confidently says—"We will not die!" (Hosea 11:9). Since Jehovah is God of the Covenant and is independent, absolute, eternal, holy and righteous, He will protect us!

His covenant had promised protection and God has no other plans but to keep that covenant. It is inevitable that injustice in Judah and Chaldea would be punished!