

“This is the bright star in all his prophecy. This is the underlying and significant factor - that the hope which Habakkuk received in the vision is the same hope that the Christian community maintains: that history, as we know it, is in God’s hands; it is God’s story and He is in control. This is what allowed Habakkuk to come down out of the prayer tower and walk in the streets...This hope was at the very center on the New Testament Church.”

“What then? Shall we despair? Shall we express doubt as to whether the transformation of the realm of death into a realm of spiritual life shall ever be affected? No; though the vision tarry, we will wait for it, knowing that it will surely come; for ‘the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.’”



**TAKE-HOME LESSONS**

1. As we face storms in life we need an anchor which brings safety; we need a shelter that offers security.
2. God’s answers come to those who patiently wait.
3. God’s written Word offers answers to life’s perplexities.
4. God works on his schedule and not on our schedule.

**Our Next Lesson: “Gaining Perspective in Life’s Struggles”**

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**LESSON 9 : Gaining Perspectives on Life’s Stresses**

*A Study of Habakkuk*

# WHEN GOD SEEMS SILENT

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There is no greater security than a safe shelter in perilous times. This is true whenever our lives, hopes, and future are threatened by Satan’s forces. Without such security we are easily captured by Satan’s evil devices. Bolstered by a secure refuge our “hope” is renewed.

Habakkuk’s hope had been shaken. The revelation of Judah’s fall to Babylonian savagery was a hard blow. The terrible crises of Deuteronomy 28 were about to become reality. It was this awful stress that burdened Habakkuk.

The prophet had presented his argument as to why Jehovah should not allow Babylon to invade and conquer. The nation was evil, arrogant, ungodly, and treacherous; the Lord God was too pure to use such a nation. Habakkuk has finished with a firm affirmation that Jehovah God would not allow such cruelty to continue (1:17).

Having finished his case, Habakkuk now waits for God’s response.

“Watchtower” (Guard Post) is probably figurative but is used to illustrate his vigilance. This watchtower was manned by trained guards who scanned the perimeter for any unusual signs (2 Kings 9:17; 2 Samuel 18:24). Habakkuk was watching for some response from God.

Habakkuk’s example is a great lesson. We, too, are often caught in the midst of storms/trials. We need an anchor which brings safety; we need a shelter that offers security. Habakkuk’s text highlights four specific points on how we can handle the pressures/stresses of earthly life.

### **Demonstrate a never-failing commitment to God (Habakkuk 2:1).**

In the midst of this problem Habakkuk still demonstrated an unwavering faith in God. Life did not seem fair, right, or equitable. He could understand why someone would ask, “Does it pay to follow God?” (Psalm 73)

Habakkuk needed to remember that God is in control and He is doing whatever is good (Isaiah 14:24, 27). Habakkuk shared a common weakness – we all want God to act according to our character, not His. But God always acts the same (2 Timothy 2:13).

If we are to gain victory, we must demonstrate this whole-hearted consecration to God. Habakkuk was confident that God would supply an answer. All he had to do was wait (Psalm 5:3).

Once we take a problem to God, we should follow Habakkuk’s example and cease to concern ourselves about it!

Habakkuk could neither understand the problem nor reconcile it with God’s justice. But he did take it to God and leave it there. This is the only way to peace. No matter the problem, never let it overwhelm you and burden you with care. Having done everything you can, turn it over to God! (2 Timothy 1:12b; Ephesians 3:20)

### **Give an energetic response to God’s Word (Habakkuk 2:2).**

Habakkuk was told to write down the response because it would be read and publicized by many. God’s Word is still the only way to gain an answer to life’s perplexities. Habakkuk rejected human wisdom as offering an answer. He wanted to know what God said. God’s Word continues to offer an answer to those who seek it (Psalm 119).

### **Possess an absolute trust in the future (Habakkuk 2:3).**

The answer to Habakkuk’s perplexity was that there was no immediate deliverance coming. The prophet had to “wait” for its coming. Life’s stresses often press us to seek immediate relief – we want the matter taken care of

“right now”! But God does not work on our time schedule.

Many have to learn this quality of “waiting” on God (Psalm 5:3; 85:8; Isaiah 26:8; Hebrews 10:36-38).

Nothing reveals the truth of our faith as much as our willingness to “wait” on God. God tells us – “Trust and believe and at the proper time it will come!” This patient “waiting” does not murmur but constantly trusts in God.

Remember – when life’s stresses appear to go unnoticed by God’s justice, it does not mean that God is not doing anything, it does mean that God is going to do things in His own way! (2 Peter 3:9). Your whole perspective of life’s injustices will change when you allow injustice to be answered on God’s schedule! (2 Timothy 2:13; Isaiah 14:24). Although God seems to allow wickedness to prosper and destruction and violence to parade through society, there will come a day of reckoning! (2 Thessalonians 1:6-8).

### **Diligence to duty in the face of perplexities (Habakkuk 2:1).**

Habakkuk resolved to continue at his post even though surrounded with problems that did not make sense. He was going to continue – “I will stand – I will not leave my post – I will faithfully discharge my duty!”

Christians today must share a similar resolve. Even though we are often beset with doubts and pounded with problems, we must continue! (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Let us possess the perspective of Habakkuk when we are confronted with life’s stresses/struggles. Always be confident in your trust in God. This was the “turning point” in Habakkuk’s struggles.

#### **Let Go and Let God**

As children bring their broken toys  
With tears for us to mend.  
I brought my broken dreams to God  
Because He was my Friend.  
But then instead of leaving Him  
In peace to work alone,  
I hung around and tried to help  
With ways that were my own.  
At last I snatched them back and cried,  
“How can You be so slow?”  
“My child,” He said, “what could I do -  
You never did let go!”  
(Anonymous)