

salvation” (verse 13). All of earth’s trials should lead to this grand goal!

It may appear that God’s goal is not being realized, but never allow that to keep you from cooperating with God. His mercy is still available for all who are willing to submit, but it will not be available forever!

### Concluding Thoughts

⇒ Remember - “His ways are everlasting!” (3:6b).


⇒ Remember the inequities of life will be balanced?

Will we survive? Yes! But only if we focus on three things:

⇒ Remember the glorious past!

⇒ Trust in God’s great power!

⇒ Believe in God’s Word!



### TAKE-HOME LESSONS

1. History assures us that God will NOT allow evil to go unpunished.
2. History urges Christians to submit to God’s timeline for evil’s retribution.
3. History verifies that God’s sovereign authority is uncontested.
4. History validates that God’s divine wrath will destroy evil nations.

Our Next Lesson: “The Struggle Is Over! ”

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## LESSON 12 : When Inequities Are Balanced

*A Study of Habakkuk*

# WHEN GOD SEEMS SILENT

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## DALRAIDA CHURCH OF CHRIST

Habakkuk began his prophecy protesting that injustice was rampant. The prophet accused God of inaction and apathy. Habakkuk’s short sightedness was revealed as he learned God was neither inactive nor apathetic. Habakkuk learned that God is working on evil’s injustice - it will not escape!

Our present text reveals how the inequities of life will be balanced by God. It gives us reason for convictions that God will not allow evil to go unpunished!

The third chapter presents a fitting conclusion to Habakkuk’s prophecy. Habakkuk’s faith triumphs over the perplexities which have troubled him. The focus is on the Almighty God who sits in sovereign glory in His Holy Temple.

This chapter emphasizes the attitude that believers should possess when beset with life’s perplexities. Habakkuk began his prophecy by looking at man’s injustice and forgetting God.

Now he has changed his focus and sees God as the Almighty Ruler whose ways are never hindered by man’s acts.

The passage scans history and with rapid images and portrays God in awe-inspired terms. The prophet's conclusion announces that in Jehovah God one may place a justified, unshakable trust!

The tone of 3:19 is the exact opposite of 1:2. Why? Because the Truths of 3:1-16 have become the governing standard in the prophet's mind!

This text reveals Habakkuk's closing thoughts. He has had his questions answered by God. He knows that evil injustice will never escape God's judgements.

Habakkuk's understanding reveals that there are three responses to life's inequities. Notice how each response is portrayed as life's inequities are balanced!

### ***The Prophet's response - COMPLETE CONFIDENCE!***

As Habakkuk places life's inequities into proper perspective, he demonstrates complete confidence in God's sovereignty. Three acts reveal this.

A PRAYER of absolute trust (3:1).

This prayer would be used in worship to call people to remember how powerful God was (verse 19b). This was an emotional, fervent outpouring of Habakkuk's faith. Habakkuk turns to face the perplexities of life with a renewed confidence that nothing will unseat the Almighty Sovereign!

These elements of Habakkuk's prayer should be emulated by all struggling to explain life's inequities.

*Humility* - He was no longer questioning God. He recognized that Jehovah was right and absolutely just. We see an attitude of complete submission to God's will (Acts 21:14b). Habakkuk's concern no longer focused upon his personal state or upon his nation - all he cared about was God's glory. Let us follow his humility. May our whole concern be with God's glory and the divine will. Let us humble ourselves and be concerned only for the progress of righteousness (1 Peter 5:6).

*Adoration* - Habakkuk requests that God revive His work. The prophet does not want the divine plan to fail ("revive" - persevere, verse 2). Habakkuk knew that if God's plan did not fail then all would eventually be right. For what do we pray when worries beset us? (Philippians 4:4-6). Do we focus more on events in the world or upon God's plan being fulfilled? The struggling saints in Revelation heard John pray that God's plan never fail (Revelation 22:20b).

When you confront life's perplexities with a confident prayer-life, all problems begin to take proper perspective in relation to God's great power! You rest confidently in a wonderful trust that Jehovah God is able to deal with any crisis that comes!

A FEAR regarding God's awesome wrath (3:16a).

Habakkuk realized that Judah's punishment was inevitable, it could not be avoided. Habakkuk recognized that God had the right to do whatever He

chose with Judah. The prophet confesses the horrors of facing God's wrath. There is a "consuming fire" to be faced (Daniel 10:8; Job 40:5; Hebrews 10:31). The word "trembled" refers to the entire system undergoes a terrific shock.

Habakkuk was completely confident that God would judge evil and punish injustice (Romans 11:22).

A RESIGNATION to wait for God to act (3:16b)

Habakkuk confessed his willingness to wait and submit to God's time-table. He was willing to cease expecting God to react to his demands! This brings rewards (Psalm 27:14). This was not a concession to evil. It was an expression of faith that trusts and waits in an uncomplaining manner.

### ***The Lord's response - COMPLETE COMMAND!***

*The revival of His work* demonstrates His absolute command (3:2). When Israel needed deliverance, God's purpose always progressed. Such historical trustworthiness was in Habakkuk's thoughts here. Since God has complete command, this is a certain fact!

*The survey of the world* demonstrated God's absolute command (3:3-6). Habakkuk sees God coming with an august Presence.

- He is an awesome Warrior.
- He is likened to a stupendous storm with earth-shattering disturbances.
- He is likened to the destructive forces of plagues and pestilences.
- He possesses authority to divide the earth (3:6; See Psalm 74:17).

Everything Habakkuk saw emphasized the power and authority of God (3:4). God's command will render vindication to the saved and misery to those who reject justice. None will stand who are unrighteous (Revelation 6:17). Confronted with such a righteous justice, the prophet pleads, "in wrath remember mercy" (verse 21b).

### ***The Sinner's response - COMPLETE COLLAPSE!***

When God's judgement appears, all sinners will be struck with a dreaded fear. Sinners might dominate now with power but when God's judgement comes, all flee! (Revelation 20:11). Egypt's power and greatness did not protect it (Exodus 15:14) and earthly pomp and power will be useless as well (Titus 2:13; Psalm 9:15).

Habakkuk depicts the sinner's plight in blunt terms: startled (3:6); collapse (3:6); distress (3:7); abysmal ruin (3:12-15). Ultimately the stubborn heart will have to admit God's sovereignty - they will admit that God is the Ruler of all (verse 16b; Romans 14:11, 12).

Such a description should strike terror in the hearts of all who are opposed to God today! (Acts 2:36-37). God's overruling objective is "for the