

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

HABAKKUK 3

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The book of Habakkuk is one of my favorite books of all the prophets. The book was written probably between 612 B.C., the fall of Nineveh, and 605 B.C., the Battle of Carchemish, which established the Babylonians as the dominant power in the Levant and Mesopotamian regions of the Middle East.

Habakkuk could have been a Levite, and a singer, as the last verse of the book has a musical notation much like that of the Psalms. Whatever the case, the book of Habakkuk stands as a reminder that God's ways are not man's ways. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are God's ways above ours. God sees the big picture, the entire picture from start to finish. We are limited in our sight and ability to interpret correctly what we do see. God, the creator, and sustainer of everything, is not so handicapped.

Habakkuk asked a lot of questions, which sets him apart from the other prophets of his era. He asked questions that many ask. It has traditionally been said that "We are not to ever question God." That is simply not so Biblically, in precept, principle, or pattern. God wants us to ask Him questions when we do not understand what He is doing around us or in us. Read what James, the half-brother of

Jesus, said, **"If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking."** (James 1:5 NLT) If it were wrong to ask why, then we have a larger theological problem because, on the cross in the final hour of Jesus' life, He asked, **"My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"**

Habakkuk wanted to know why? How? How could God allow the children of Israel to go on in violence, injustice, and overall wickedness and not judge His people? How could He allow Judah to get away with such vile actions and beliefs? Yet Habakkuk was genuinely puzzled as to why God would use a nation that her perceived was even worse and an even more wicked nation to overtake and conquer His people. Had God forgotten about His covenant? God did not get angry with Habakkuk, He simply told him that in his present frame of mind, Habakkuk would not believe Him even if He told the prophet exactly what He was doing.

Prayer and Action Steps

God, You know best. Help me to trust You even when I do not understand. Help me to remember that You do all things well.

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____

