



Empowering People to Change the World

The Final Prayer of Habakkuk

Steve Holt

© Steve Holt | TheRoad.org

The Lord's Prayer

Habakkuk: A Pilgrimage to Higher Ground (graphic)

We have been on a journey with Habakkuk:

- If you've ever felt like God doesn't hear your prayers, so had Habakkuk.
- If you've ever wondered if God cares about the evil in the world, so had Habakkuk.
- If you long to overcome your fears with faith, Habakkuk has.
- To overcome your anxiety in the deep valleys and move to the higher ground of victory, we are going to do so from this book.

In Chapter 1

- Habakkuk complains to God that He is uninterested and uninvolved.
- God speaks to Habakkuk and tells him that He is using tragedy to judge Judah.
- He will use the Babylonians to judge godless Judah.
- This is the low point of Habakkuk's life.

But In Chapter 2

- Habakkuk stops talking and takes his stand in waiting and listening to God.
- He positions himself on the high ground of silence and waiting on God.
- And so should we in our times of darkness and seeking God.
- God shows Habakkuk that He is indeed very involved with world affairs, and He will both judge these evil nations—they will get their due.
 - God will judge the evil nations who do evil things.
 - God will take them down.
 - Evil is going to run into God! Nobody says it better in a modern song than Johnny Cash.

God's Gonna Cut You Down

By Johnny Cash

**You can run on for a long time
Run on for a long time
Run on for a long time
Sooner or later God'll cut you down
Sooner or later God'll cut you down**

**Go tell that long tongue liar
Go and tell that midnight rider
Tell the rambler, the gambler, the back biter
Tell 'em that God's gonna cut 'em down
Tell 'em that God's gonna cut 'em down**

- God is bringing a Kingdom of God Revolution through the greatest verse in the Bible “the just shall live by faith.”
- And He is showing Habakkuk that the passion of the Lord is that “the whole earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord.”
- Habakkuk has moved from fear to faith; from worry to worship!
- Habakkuk has taken his stand and waited on God.
- He has heard from God.

**“For the earth will be filled
With the knowledge of the glory of the Lord,
As the waters cover the sea” (Habakkuk 2:14).**

Habakkuk’s Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving

And now we come to Habakkuk’s final prayer. A song, a prayer of worship.

- Habakkuk is on higher ground, the tower, worshipping the Lord even as he prays.
- **He has moved to higher ground and his prayer is to God, for Him to do a great work in his day.**

This is the prayer of Habakkuk

“A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, on Shigionoth.

**O Lord, I have heard Your speech *and* was afraid;
O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years!
In the midst of the years make *it* known;
In wrath remember mercy.”**

Verse 2 Revive Your Work in our Day!

- Revive your work in our day! Remember mercy. I fear You Lord, I’ve listened to Your words to me. Come again. Bring *revival* to our land.
- Come down again and rend the heavens with your grace, mercy, and power.
- One hundred years before, another prophet had cried out to God in a similar manner.

Isaiah 64

**“Oh, that You would rend the heavens!
That You would come down!
That the mountains might shake at Your presence—
As fire burns brushwood,
As fire causes water to boil...
For since the beginning of the world
Men have not heard nor perceived by the ear,
Nor has the eye seen any God besides You,
Who acts for the one who waits for Him.”**

- Habakkuk is saying, *Lord I have waited on You. I have listened to You! Come down again in the power we have heard about. How you rescued us out of Egypt. How you brought us to the Promised Land.*
- It’s a prayer for Pentecost before there was a Pentecost. A prayer for New Testament revival before there was New Testament revival.
 - This is what we do at Noonday Fire every Wednesday. We are asking God to bring revival to Colorado, to El Paso County, to America! Join us.
- Every great move of God was preceded by prayer by the saints.

Habakkuk continues in verse 3—He is recounting the past glory and power of God in Israel’s history.

Verses 3-7 Come Down in Praise and Glory!

**“God came from Teman,
The Holy One from Mount Paran.
His glory covered the heavens,
And the earth was full of His praise.
His brightness was like the light;
He had rays *flashing* from His hand,
And there His power *was* hidden.
Before Him went pestilence,
And fever followed at His feet.
He stood and measured the earth;
He looked and startled the nations.
And the everlasting mountains were scattered,
The perpetual hills bowed.
His ways *are* everlasting.
I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction;
The curtains of the land of Midian trembled.”**

- In these verses, Habakkuk is recalling the LORD's wondrous acts in Israel's past. He's asking the LORD to renew His wondrous deeds among His covenant people so that the earth might acknowledge His power.
- All the nations heard of His power in the Great Deliverance from Egypt.

According to Habakkuk, “God comes from Teman and Mount Paran.” The place named Teman is a geographical designation that generally signifies *south* (Exodus 26:18).

- The place called *Mount Paran* was a mountain located in the wilderness of *Paran*, south of the Promised Land. It was the first site where the Israelites encamped after leaving Mount Sinai. It is the place where the LORD rose in all His glory like the bright sun to shine on the Israelites during their wilderness journey (Deuteronomy 33:2).

**“The Lord came from Sinai,
And dawned on them from Seir;
He shone forth from Mount Paran,
And He came with ten thousands of saints;
From His right hand
Came a fiery law for them”** (Deuteronomy 33:2).

- As *God* arrived on the scene, *His splendor covers the heavens*. The term translated as *splendor* is "hōdh" in Hebrew. It refers to God's magnificent appearance; His manifest presence and glory as seen by men. God's *splendor* is manifest in His lordship in creation and history. He is "clothed with splendor and majesty" (Psalm 104:1).

“Bless the Lord, O my soul!

O Lord my God, You are very great:

You are clothed with honor and majesty” (Psalm 104:1).

- Because of God's majestic power, *the earth is full of His praise*. That means that God's majesty and honor cause people all over the earth to respond to Him with praise.
- We praise God until the glory comes!

“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,

And into His courts with praise.

Be thankful to Him, and bless His name” (Psalm 100:4).

As Habakkuk recounts these images that seem to reflect upon the manifestation of God when He delivered Israel and judged Egypt, now this same image of God's power is coming to Israel to bring judgement upon their Egypt-like behavior.

- And you know what? We also should take the lead of Habakkuk and believe God to renew His great power in our nation!
 - Remembering the first Great Awakening in the 1740s;
 - The second Great Awakening in the early 1800s;
 - The Jesus Movement in the 1960s and 70s.

Habakkuk calls for the Warrior God

Verses 8-16 Go to War for Your People!

“O Lord, were *You* displeased with the rivers,

Was Your anger against the rivers,

Was Your wrath against the sea,

That *You* rode on *Your* horses,

Your chariots of salvation?

Your bow was made quite ready;
Oaths were sworn over *Your* arrows.
You divided the earth with rivers.

The mountains saw You *and* trembled;
The overflowing of the water passed by.
The deep uttered its voice,
And lifted its hands on high.

The sun and moon stood still in their habitation;
At the light of Your arrows they went,
At the shining of Your glittering spear.

You marched through the land in indignation;
You trampled the nations in anger.

You went forth for the salvation of Your people,
For salvation with Your Anointed.
You struck the head from the house of the wicked,
By laying bare from foundation to neck.

You thrust through with his own arrows
The head of his villages.
They came out like a whirlwind to scatter me;
Their rejoicing was like feasting on the poor in secret.

You walked through the sea with Your horses,
Through the heap of great waters.

When I heard, my body trembled;
My lips quivered at *the* voice;
Rottenness entered my bones;
And I trembled in myself,
That I might rest in the day of trouble.
When he comes up to the people,
He will invade them with his troops.”

In Biblical History, God is seen as the Great Mighty Warrior God

- In Exodus 15, after God delivered Israel out of the Red Sea, Moses and the people sang, “The Lord is a man of war; the Lord is His name!”
- Isaiah writes, “The Lord shall go forth like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war...He shall prevail against His enemies.”
- Moses writes in Deuteronomy 20:4

“For it is the Lord your God who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to give you victory.”

- This is the God who destroyed the Egyptian Army.
- This is the Warrior God who brought down the walls of Jericho.
- This is the Warrior God who destroyed the Assyrian Army.

Verses 17-19 Despite Loss, The Lord God is Our Strength!

**“Though the fig tree may not blossom,
Nor fruit be on the vines;
Though the labor of the olive may fail,
And the fields yield no food;
Though the flock may be cut off from the fold,
And there be no herd in the stalls—
Yet I will rejoice in the Lord,
I will joy in the God of my salvation.
The Lord God is my strength;
He will make my feet like deer’s feet,
And He will make me walk on my high hills.**

[This is a worship song of the prayer of Habakkuk] To the Chief Musician. With my stringed instruments.”

- Whatever the outcome, even if failure comes, even if famine comes, I will set myself on the high ground and choose to praise the Lord!!
- I will choose joy. Joy is the greatest expression of love.
- He will be my strength and He will give me strength and joy.
- “The joy of the Lord is my strength!”

- Love is joy! The greatest expression of love is possessing joy.

Are you walking in love? Joy?

- It's like the deer leaping upon the steep mountains.
- Learn from the prophet—go to the high places, the quiet places with God and He will give you joy.
- The Gospels say Jesus “often” went to the lonely places to pray.
- The disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray because saw that His strength and joy came from the high places of prayer, waiting on God, seeking the Father.

Ministry Time:

If you need a renewal of your walk with God, of your times alone with God, come up.