

The Original Talk Show

Chapter 10

Audio Lesson: Old Testament number 83



Objective: To understand the message of the book of Habakkuk.



LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O LORD. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.

—Habakkuk 3:2

Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

—Psalm 42:11

Habakkuk was a priest and a minister of worship and music who lived immediately before the Babylonian captivity, when the threat of Babylon's invasion was clear to all. But while Jerusalem's watchmen were in towers looking for the coming army, Habakkuk stationed himself in a spiritual tower to hear from God. He is known for repeatedly asking God "why?" as he wrestles with the questions all of Judah must have been asking. God speaks to him about His purposes, and the prophet encourages Judah to live by faith and to keep their hope. He concludes his message with a wonderful song of praise to God.



1. True or **false**? Habakkuk is known for giving a lot of answers to hard questions.
2. True or **false**? Though the book Habakkuk comes after the book of Nahum in the Bible, Habakkuk lived at least a century before Nahum.
3. **True** or false? Habakkuk preached at the time of the Babylonian invasion.

4. **True** or false? Habakkuk was a priest responsible for music.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. How many times is Habakkuk's most famous verse quoted in the New Testament?

- a. Once
- b. Three times**
- c. 14 times
- d. 22 times

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| <p><i>. . . but the righteous will live by faith.</i> — Habakkuk 2:4</p> |
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6. What is one reason Habakkuk might have written in the form of questions?

- a. He did not know any answers because he did not know how to hear God's voice.
- b. He wanted people to figure out the answers themselves.
- c. It was a creative way to present hard truth without actually making statements that could get him killed.**
- d. He thought his writings might help confuse the Babylonians when they invaded Jerusalem.

7. According to the example of Habakkuk, what should we do when we have a crisis? (*choose all that apply*)

- a. Build a tower made of stone.
- b. Get alone with God.**
- c. Ask God all our questions.**
- d. Trust in our own abilities to handle it.
- e. Watch and wait for God to speak.**
- f. Use our own standards of logic.
- g. Choose to live by faith in God.**
- h. Worship God.**

8. How does the book of Habakkuk end?

- a. With his execution
- b. With Babylon's victory over Jerusalem
- c. With a prophecy of the end times
- d. With a hymn of praise**

9. What is the ultimate purpose of a martyr?

- a. To show the world a witness**
- b. To die as quickly as possible
- c. To die in a way that does not embarrass God
- d. To get a greater reward in heaven

10. Where can we find strength and comfort when we are in a crisis?

- a. In our work
- b. In our government
- c. In the money we have saved
- d. Only in God**



Do you have many questions for God? What are some of them? Do you have a place where you meet with God and wait for Him to speak to you? In what ways has He spoken to you?



Thank God that He allows us to ask questions, that He is willing to speak to His people, and thank Him that He is all-powerful and invites us to seek refuge and direction in Him. Ask Him to speak clearly to you in times when you are silent before Him. Ask Him to increase your faith and help you to always worship Him, especially in times of difficulty.



Going Deeper

1. What was the clever literary form chosen by Habakkuk, and why did he choose to present his message the way he did? _____

2. Were the questions he was asking in his watchtower his own questions or questions the people of God were asking as they were about to be conquered by the Babylonians? _____

3. How did this prophet mean for his great statement, “The just shall live by faith,” (2:4) to be applied by the people who heard his questions and answers? _____

4. His basic question was “Why would You use a people more wicked than we are to chastise us?” When God answered that question through Habakkuk, what was His answer as it related to the people of God? _____

5. What was God’s answer through Habakkuk as it related to the wicked who were about to conquer them? _____

6. How does the hymn Habakkuk wrote at the conclusion of his prophecy (Hab 3:16-19) relate to the so-called prosperity theology that is preached by many today, especially since we do not know if this prophet survived? _____

7. What obstacle that blocks the work of God was addressed by the prophet Habakkuk? _____
