

The Book of Habakkuk: Pursuing Happiness in God

April 19, 2026

Text—Habakkuk 1-3

Background/ Theme—The name Habakkuk in Hebrew means ‘to embrace.’ This 3 chapter prophetic book was written sometime between 612 and 599 B.C. before the Babylonian captivity of 586 B.C. Little is known about Habakkuk, but we do know that he was a prophet in Judah and a contemporary of Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and Zephaniah. In this book Habakkuk comes to grips with serious problems in his nation (Judah) and laid hold of God by faith when everything in his life and his nation seemed to be falling apart.

1. HOW CAN I BE HAPPY WHEN IT SEEMS THAT GOD DOESN'T CARE (See 1:1-11)? Habakkuk struggled with the fact the leaders of Judah were corrupt, idolatrous, and oppressing their own people morally and spiritually. Though his faith wavered he cried out to God, the righteous Judge, regarding these injustices (**V2-4**).

*For Unbelievers—God’s promise to judge reveals the holiness/ righteousness of His character. God is perfectly holy and righteous; therefore He will justly punish every sin. **Rom. 6:23**

*For the Christian—Habakkuk’s prayerful concern demonstrates faith in God’s Sovereignty over our present circumstances (**1:2-4**). He prayed to God because he knew God ruled over the events that would happen.

2 Tim.2:15; Phil. 4:6-7

Jas. 1:2-4; Ps.56:3-4; Rom.8:28

*For the Body of Christ—Habakkuk’s dialogue teaches us that our churches are to be communities that display trust in God’s Word.

2. HOW CAN I BE HAPPY WHEN GOD’S CARE SEEMS STRANGE TO ME (Hab. 1:12-2:1)? God clearly answered Habakkuk regarding the injustice he saw among the people of

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Judah. Yet the method God chose to use to address Judah's sin troubled Habakkuk even more.

2 Tim. 3:16-17

Wayne Grudem—*The phrase ‘the righteous shall live by his faith’ is quoted in the NT to emphasize that people are saved by grace through faith (Rom.1:17; Gal.3:11; Eph.2:8) and that Christians should live by faith (Heb.10:38-39). The kind of faith that Habakkuk describes, and that the NT authors promote, is continuing trust in God and clinging to God’s promises, even in the darkest days.*

How can we as sinful people who are born under God's wrath be made right before a holy God?

Rom.1:16-17

The justified person is the one who has stopped trying to please God by his own efforts and who has turned to Jesus instead for the righteousness that God gives freely. You can't earn it, you must receive it by faith in Christ alone! It's saying 'Yes!' to giving our lives to Christ. After coming to Christ, we cannot depend on our good works to please God. Instead, we must live by faith [**Gal.3:10-11**]. Perseverance in living by faith throughout a person's life is evidence that one is truly a follower of Christ (**Heb.10:37-39**).

3. HOW CAN I BE HAPPY UNDER ANY SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES (Hab.3)? Habakkuk helps us to answer this question through his response. He prays to God for mercy (**V1-2**), he describes the vision God gives him (**V3-15**) and finally makes an amazing proclamation of his joy in God (**V16-19**). Habakkuk learned by God's grace that the only way to be happy under any circumstance is by finding one's complete joy and satisfaction in God.

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Phil.4:10-13; Ps.73:25-26

How can we as a church pursue Happiness in God?

***1-Let us worship God together by singing the truth about our Great God (Ps.100:4-5).**

***2-Let us practice God-centered teaching, preaching, and Bible Study (Hab.3:18).**

***3-Let us evaluate our schedules to prioritize worship at home & witness before our non-Christian friends and acquaintances (Mt.5:16).**

***4-Learn to meditate on and magnify the Greatness of God when you see it in scripture, creation, and your personal life.**