



# HABAKKUK

FAITH IN WAITING

## Habakkuk • August 2022

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### Overview

When times are uncertain, and events don't match our expectations or understanding of how the world works, what do we do? Habakkuk is the record of one prophet's wrestle about this with God. It's a testament to honesty with God, seeking to submit our understanding to trust in Him in all circumstances.

### Background

We know little about Habakkuk other than what is revealed in the first two verses of the book. The 'oracle' will have been after Israel fell (to the Assyrians in 722 BC) and probably before Babylon first invaded Judah in 605 BC. Unlike most of the minor prophets, it does not contain messages for the prophet to proclaim to the nation, but instead is a dialogue with God, reminiscent of the book of Job.

### Outline

1. Trusting God's actions (Habakkuk 1:1-2:1) August 14
2. Trusting God's timing (Habakkuk 12:3-13) August 21
3. Trusting God for the future (Habakkuk 12:14-29) August 28

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**Week 1 • 14 August • Habakkuk 1:1-2:1**

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**Faith when God doesn't do what you think he should.**

1. When was the last time you objected to something not being fair? Do you see your own feelings reflected in verses 1-4?
  
2. Consider God's response to Habakkuk's complaint in verses 5-11.
  - a. Does it contain a rebuke to Habakkuk?
  
  - b. What do you find most challenging in what God says here?
  
  - c. What do you think God's purpose is in using ungodly Babylon to judge Israel?
  
3. Look at the arrogance of Babylon, and the symbols they took pride in. What symbols of power do we worship in our culture today?



**THE STREET**  
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\* All verse references are to NIV unless otherwise noted. Try to use scripture as much as possible to back up responses. **Email:** [lifegroups@thestreet.org.nz](mailto:lifegroups@thestreet.org.nz) • **Sign-up:** [www.thestreet.org.nz/lifegroups](http://www.thestreet.org.nz/lifegroups)

4. Habakkuk responds with acceptance (v12) of God's authority, and persistence (2:1) in seeking to hear from God. How can we use these two verses to encourage each other in the difficulties we face, as individuals, as a church, as a country?
  
5. Share a yet to be answered prayer with each other. Spend time praying over those situations. You may like to use the images of this passage or Psalm 13 to enter into prayer.

*Over the next few weeks you might like to persist in praying for these matters, help each other, bearing one another's burdens.*

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Week 2 • 21 August • Habakkuk 2:2-20

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## **Faith when God doesn't act on your timetable.**

As citizens of heaven we live in a “now but not yet” kingdom. We live in a world surrounded by wickedness still, but it is God's to judge the wicked.

1. What is something or someone around you that you struggle with?
2. Compare Habakkuk 2:4 to Romans 1:16-18 and Galatians 3:10-14. How is Paul's emphasis like and unlike Habakkuk's?
3. Notice the repetition of the word 'woe.' As you look at them:
  - a. Do you see any of these 'woes' occurring in society today?
  - b. Do you see any in your own life?
  - c. In general, what does this passage say to our society?
4. We, like Habakkuk, need to ask God to move against the evil we see around us. Spend some time seeking God about the things you see are wrong in our city. Invite his Power, Authority and Kingdom to be made known.



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Week 3 • 28 August • Habakkuk 3:1-19

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**Faith when you need God to do now what he's done in the past.**

1. When is a time you have had to trust someone, and you didn't really want to?
  
2. There are vivid pictures in these verses that allude to God's history and provision for Israel.
  - a. Which phrase fills you with trepidation?
  
  - b. What image of God's majesty inspires you?
  
  - c. Which statement gives you confidence in your faith?
  
3. How does the attitude of verse 17 differ from that society would tell us to have?



4. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in this exercise. Read over the passage a couple times, you might like to use the Bible app or a video of the passage. Draw an image that sticks in your mind.
  - a. What does it tell us about relying on God
  - b. Share your images and thoughts
  - c. Does God seem to be asking your group to step out in faith and trust in a particular way?
  - d. Find a way to display your images as a reminder of God's faithfulness and salvation