

[A Devotional Study on Living by Faith]

LORD,
Where Are You
When Bad Things
Happen?



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

CHAPTER 1

Are you ever so burdened with your circumstances that it seems as though God does not care? Do you look at the sin in your nation and wonder, God, where are you?

1. The historical background of the book of Habakkuk is key to understanding the message of this book. When Habakkuk wrote it, what had happened to the nation of Israel?
 - a. What had happened to the northern kingdom of Israel? When did the Babylonian captivity of the southern kingdom of Judah take place?
 - b. When was the book of Habakkuk written? What was the situation in the southern kingdom at the time Habakkuk wrote this book? Which other prophet also prophesied during the time of Habakkuk?
 - c. According to the chart on page 11 regarding Jeremiah and his contemporary prophets, when did Habakkuk live...during the reign of which king? What kind of king was he? How was he described? What amazing event took place during his reign (2 Kings 22)?
 - d. When the book of the Law was read in the presence of the king, what was the king's response? What did Josiah know to be true about the Kingdom of Judah (2 Kings 22)?
 - e. When Josiah sent to inquire of the Lord from Huldah the prophetess, what message did he receive from God about the people of Judah and himself (2 Kings 22)?
 - f. When Josiah read the book of the Law to the people, what was their response? What kind of things were the people of Judah involved in? What did Josiah do to stop these things? What did Josiah do to restore the land of Judah (2 Kings 23)?
 - g. What was God's response to the people (2 Kings 23)?

2. The book of Habakkuk records a dialogue between Habakkuk and God. How does chapter 1 begin? Who is speaking?
 - a. What was Habakkuk's burden? What were Habakkuk's questions to God? What was the problem that caused Habakkuk to cry to God? (Remember the times in which Habakkuk lived.)
 - b. What was God's answer to Habakkuk? What did God say that He was doing?
 - c. How did God describe the Chaldeans? What did God say about the Chaldeans' responsibility for their sin?
 - d. How did Habakkuk respond to God? Where was his focus? What did Habakkuk say to us about the Lord's character?
 - e. What questions did Habakkuk still have? Why do you think he asked these questions?
3. In chapter 2, the dialogue between Habakkuk and God continues. What did Habakkuk say he would do?
 - a. What was God's answer? What did He command Habakkuk to do?
 - b. Who are the proud ones? What was the first woe that would come upon the proud one? What is God's judgment going to be on them?
 - c. What was the second woe? What did He say that they have done? What does He say will happen?

- d. What was the third woe? What did God say would happen one day?
 - e. What was the fourth woe that God pronounced? What will happen to the proud one?
 - f. What was the fifth woe? What contrast does God give?
4. In the third chapter Habakkuk prayed. How did he begin? What did this show about Habakkuk?
- a. What was Habakkuk's plea to God?
 - b. How did he describe God? What did God do to the nations? What did He do for His people? When do you think these events take place?
 - c. How did the book of Habakkuk end? Had Habakkuk's circumstances changed from the beginning of the book to the end? What had changed?
5. What is the danger that God's people face today?
- a. What are Paul's concerns for the Colossians in chapter 2? What do the Colossians and all believers have in Jesus?
 - b. What happens when the Word of God is left out of the Church? What happens when you do not spend time in the Word of God?
 - c. What place, priority, and preeminence does the Word of God have in your life?

CHAPTER 2

In week one you learned that in 622 b.c., during the reign of Josiah, the book of the Law was found in the house of the Lord. After hearing the words of the book of the Law, Josiah humbled himself before the Lord and made a covenant to keep His statutes.

When Josiah read the book of the Law to the people of Judah, they entered into a covenant before the Lord with Josiah to keep the Law. However, based on Habakkuk's description of them in his book, written between 621 and 609 b.c., there seemed to have been no change in the way they lived.

What is true repentance? What does it mean to trust God in hard situations?

1. Second Corinthians 7:8-11 talks about two kinds of sorrow. What are they? Josiah parallels one kind of sorrow, and the people of Judah parallel the other (2 Kings 22–23). Which kind of sorrow is descriptive of Josiah?
 - a. What are the marks of godly sorrow?
 - b. How did you see some of these characteristics lived out in Josiah? What did he do?
 - c. What is the message for you? How can you tell the difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow?
2. What kind of sorrow for sin did the people of Judah have?
 - a. Because the book of the Law had been lost, what was the condition of the people of Judah when Habakkuk was writing? According to Jeremiah 2:13, what had the people done? What two evils had they committed?
 - b. What did God ask the people in Jeremiah 2:18-19? What is Egypt a picture of? What is water sometimes a picture of?

- c. In the Old Testament, God constantly shows us that He alone is to be our source, our sufficiency. How is that same picture seen in the New Testament in John 7:37-38?
 - d. What had the people of Judah done, according to Jeremiah 3:6-14? What had God told them to do when He redeemed His people from Egypt (Exodus 20:5-6)?
 - e. According to Jeremiah 3:6-14, what is significant about the fact that Judah had turned away from God to serve idols? How did God describe Israel? How did He describe Judah?
 - f. What did God allow Assyria to do to Israel as a result of their idolatry? What effect did all this have on Judah (Jeremiah 3:6-14)?
 - g. Because Judah did not heed the warning, what did God tell Jeremiah to proclaim to Israel (Jeremiah 3:6-14)?
3. What did you learn about the people of Judah in Jeremiah 7:1-28? What did God say would happen if they were to repent?
- a. Did they obey? What did God tell Jeremiah to do? What reason did God give Jeremiah for the people's serving these idols?
 - b. Because of their refusal to repent, what did God say He would do to the temple? What did God say would happen to the people of Judah? Had they been given time to repent?
 - c. What did God tell Jeremiah that the people's response would be? What would the result be?

4. What is idolatry? How could you be involved in idolatry today?

5. How did the book of Habakkuk begin? What was Habakkuk's cry? What problem caused Habakkuk to cry to God?
 - a. What did God tell Habakkuk that He was doing?

 - b. How did the book of Habakkuk end? What did Habakkuk know he had to do?

 - c. What does the name Habakkuk mean? What did Habakkuk do?

6. What does this say to you in your circumstances?
 - a. Is there a need for godly sorrow over sin in your life? Do you feel that you can't go on?

 - b. Are you angry because you are not in control? Do you need to trust God?

CHAPTER 3

In week two you learned that there are two kinds of sorrow...a godly sorrow that produces repentance, and a sorrow of the world that produces death. The godly sorrow was exemplified in the repentance of Josiah, and the sorrow of the world in the “repentance” of the nation of Judah. You also looked briefly at the example of Habakkuk trusting God in a hard situation.

Who is in charge of this universe? If God is sovereign, does man have any responsibility, or does man just have to say, Whatever will be, will be? Can these two subjects be reconciled?

1. It is possible to learn truths from Habakkuk’s life concerning God’s sovereign rule and man’s responsibility. How does the book of Habakkuk begin?
 - a. What was Habakkuk’s burden? What was God’s answer to Habakkuk? What did God say He was doing that shows He is in control of history?
 - b. Did the Chaldeans have a responsibility for their sin (Habakkuk 1:11)? How does this parallel Matthew 18:7? How is this illustrated in Jesus’ words when He stood before Pilate (John 19:10-11)? How do these references explain that although God is sovereign, man is still responsible?
 - c. When Joseph had the power to imprison his brothers for selling him into slavery, what did he say (Genesis 50:20)?
 - d. When God was going to judge the northern kingdom of Israel by allowing Assyria to invade them and take them captive in judgment of their sin, what did God say in Isaiah 14:24-27 about His plans and His purposes? What does this teach about God’s sovereign rule?
2. How did the book of Habakkuk end? What did Habakkuk say he would do? Even though Habakkuk’s circumstances did not change, what was Habakkuk’s final response?
 - a. When Habakkuk said the “Lord God” is my strength, what was he acknowledging? What are the Hebrew meanings for Lord and God?

- b. How could Habakkuk respond this way? What does this show that God can do with the trials of your life?

3. When does the Book of Daniel begin, in relationship to the book of Habakkuk? Daniel 4 gives the account of how Nebuchadnezzar came to realize that God is in control of history, and begins with Nebuchadnezzar speaking. Who is Nebuchadnezzar?
 - a. What, in essence, is Nebuchadnezzar doing in this chapter? How does Nebuchadnezzar describe God in Daniel 4:3? What does this tell you about God being in control of history? What happened to Nebuchadnezzar to bring him to this point?

 - b. What was the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream? What was the interpretation of the message of the angelic watcher? How long was the decree for? Why? What was the significance of the stump?

 - c. What did Nebuchadnezzar need to recognize? What was Daniel's plea to Nebuchadnezzar? What does that show about man's responsibility?

 - d. Did Nebuchadnezzar listen to Daniel and repent? What did Nebuchadnezzar do twelve months later? How speedy was the judgment? What was the judgment?

 - e. At the end of that period, what did Nebuchadnezzar finally recognize?

 - f. What was the result in Nebuchadnezzar's life after he recognized that God was the ruler of all mankind? What did he say that God is able to do?

4. This same truth is explained in Luke 22:31-32. When Jesus told Peter that he would deny Him, what did Jesus say? This shows that God is sovereign over whom?

5. God has certain promises concerning trials that can sustain you in difficult circumstances. What is God's promise to you in 1 Corinthians 10:13 concerning whatever might come into your life?
 - a. According to Isaiah 50:10, what are you to do when you can't understand what is happening, when all seems to be darkness, when there seems to be no light?
 - b. According to Romans 8:28-30, whatever happens in your life what can you know? Whatever the trial, what is the hope in Romans 8:35-39?

6. What is the value of understanding the sovereignty of God when you can't understand what is going on...when you can't understand how God can allow iniquity to exist without immediately intervening?
 - a. When you grasp the truth that all things are working together for good to conform you to His image, then what are you to do in all of your circumstances, according to 1 Thessalonians 5:18?
 - b. What, then, are you going to do in the light of all of this? How is it possible to live in hard circumstances?

CHAPTER 4

In week three you saw that God is the sovereign ruler of the universe. He is in control of history. You also saw that although God is in control, man is still responsible for his choices and his actions.

What should you do in the difficult situations, tragedies, and calamities in your life? Have you ever been tempted to walk away from your situation, to forget holiness and pursue happiness at any cost?

1. Your pattern for the difficulties in life is Habakkuk. In chapter one, what was Habakkuk's burden? What were Habakkuk's questions? What was God's answer to Habakkuk?
 - a. How were the Chaldeans described? Why was it hard for Habakkuk to understand why God was going to use them to punish Judah? Did the Chaldeans have a responsibility for their sin?
 - b. When Habakkuk was troubled with things too hard to reconcile, what did he do?
2. Focusing on the attributes of God held Habakkuk and can hold you. What is the first attribute of God that Habakkuk called to mind?
 - a. How is God described in Psalm 90:1-2? How is God's dominion explained in 1 Timothy 6:15-16? What upholds you, according to Deuteronomy 33:27?
 - b. What will the everlasting God never become, according to Isaiah 40:28? What will He never do, according to Hebrews 13:5?
 - c. How can knowing and focusing on the fact that God is everlasting sustain your faith?

3. Habakkuk said, “Art Thou not from everlasting, Oh Lord, my God?”
 - a. What is the Hebrew word for “Lord,” and what does it imply?
 - b. When did God reveal Himself as YHWH? What did God tell Moses to say to the people (Exodus 3:13-15)?
 - c. Proverbs 18:10 says, “The name of the Lord is a strong tower.” What are the righteous to do? What did Habakkuk do?
 - d. What does the Hebrew word for “God” mean? According to Hebrews 11:3, how did God create the worlds? If God can speak the worlds into existence, what does this show about His power?
 - e. Why do you exist, according to Revelation 4:11? Can you change the color of your eyes or add to the length of your days (Psalm 139:13-16)?
 - f. According to Job 12:10, can you keep yourself alive if God decides to take away your breath? What does Hebrews 9:27 teach about your ultimate destiny? What is the basis of that judgment, according to Revelation 20:11-15?
4. When Habakkuk called God holy, what had God just told him would happen to Judah? Why was this going to happen?
 - a. What is holiness? If God is holy, can He do wrong?
 - b. If you consider other alternatives rather than obedience to God, what will God have to do to you? According to 1 Peter 4:17, where does judgment begin?

5. Why did Habakkuk know that the people of Judah would not die, even though the Lord would judge them in righteousness?

a. When Abraham wanted assurance from God that he and his descendants would possess the land of Canaan forever, what did God do (Genesis 15:9-21)?

b. What did the Old Testament word for covenant mean? What did God promise Abraham? When God made the covenant, what did He tell Abraham would happen to his descendants?

c. What did God do when the sons of Israel cried out to Him because of their bondage in Egypt (Exodus 2:24)? Therefore, when Habakkuk said, "We will not die," what did he know about God and the covenant?

d. According to Jeremiah 29:10-11, what did God promise them even before the final Babylonian siege of Jerusalem? How did God assure Jeremiah that Israel would not cease as a nation (Jeremiah 31:35-40)?

e. In Jeremiah 33, what did God promise He would restore? What has happened to Israel today?

f. How does all that apply to you? What promise did Jesus make the night He was betrayed? If you have entered into the new covenant, does this mean you will never sin again? What are you to do when you sin? Why does God discipline His children?

6. Habakkuk also called God the Rock. How long had God been known as the Rock?

a. What did you learn about God, the Rock, from the song of Moses in Deuteronomy 32:1-43?

b. What did the apostle Paul say about the Rock in 1 Corinthians 10:4?

7. How did the book of Habakkuk end in 3:17-19?

a. In 2 Chronicles 20, what was Jehoshaphat's situation? What did he do? After focusing on who God is, what did he pray?

b. What does this show you are to do in the hard situations of life?

CHAPTER 5

In week four you saw that after God told Habakkuk He was going to raise up the Chaldeans to punish Judah, Habakkuk focused on the character of God. God is eternal, self-existent, creator, holy, the Rock. The same thing that held Habakkuk can hold you.

What principles do you need to remember when you are in hard circumstances?

1. What were Habakkuk's questions to God, after God revealed He was raising up the Chaldeans to correct Judah? What was Habakkuk's problem concerning the wicked Chaldeans?
 - a. Did God ever tell Habakkuk why He was using the Chaldeans to judge Judah? How does Proverbs 16:4 explain this?
 - b. Can you tell God how He is going to judge you?
2. After focusing on the character of God and asking God why the Chaldeans were being used to punish Judah, what did Habakkuk say he would do? What does this show about faith?
 - a. When God is silent, does that mean God has abandoned you, that He does not care? What can you know, even in the silence?
 - b. Did God reprove Habakkuk for asking questions? What does this indicate about God's attitude concerning Habakkuk's questions?
 - c. How did the book of Habakkuk end?
3. Asaph had a similar dilemma in Psalm 73. What was Asaph's problem? How were the wicked described? What was the result of their prosperity? In their prosperity and wickedness, what did they assume about God?

- a. In contrast to the wicked, how had Asaph lived? As he looked at the wicked, what did he conclude?
 - b. What gave Asaph the proper perspective? What did God say would happen to the wicked?
 - c. When this psalm ended, where was Asaph's focus? How does this parallel with Habakkuk? What do you need to do to gain God's perspective?
4. What is the first principle you need to remember that will hold you in times of stress? How is the fact that God is in control of history seen in the circumstances surrounding the prophet Habakkuk?
5. What is the second principle you need to remember that will hold you in times of stress? What had God said to Israel long before the Babylonians ever became a world power (Deuteronomy 28)?
- a. What had God promised Israel if they would diligently obey Him (Deuteronomy 28)? What did God say would happen if they were disobedient? What was one of the curses that God said would come upon the nation of Israel if they refused to obey?
 - b. What did God say to Judah in Jeremiah 5:25-31 that would be the result of their iniquities? Did this happen?
 - c. Do you think that God still speaks to nations today through droughts, floods, and so on?

6. What is the third principle that you need to consider when you are in hard circumstances? What will God's purpose always accomplish?
 - a. According to Isaiah 14:24,27 what did you learn about God's sovereign rule? What does this tell you if you think that God is not working in your life?
 - b. Whatever happens, what can you know about your circumstances, according to Romans 8:37-39?

7. In the light of these three principles, what do you need to remember about the way that God always works?
 - a. Why do you need to know that God always works in accordance with His character? If you judge God from man's perspective, what do you fail to look at? What does God say about His ways in Isaiah 55:8-9?
 - b. How did God reply to Job in Job 40:7-9? What can you learn from that?

8. Even though Habakkuk focused on the character of God, he still had questions that God allowed him to ask. What did that show about God? According to 2 Timothy 2:13, even if you are faithless, what can you know about God?
 - a. What is God's call to His people (1 Peter 1:14-16)? According to 1 Peter 4:17, what does God have to do when you are disobedient?
 - b. When God judges His people, what is His purpose? If God did not judge sin but let it go on and on, what would that do?

9. What difference can it make to you in understanding current events if you know that God is in charge of history...that He has a purpose for Israel and the Church?

CHAPTER 6

In week five you looked at the second principle to remember when you are in hard circumstances...that all of history pivots on Israel and the Church. You also looked at the third principle that you must remember...God has a purpose in what is happening, whether or not you understand.

What does it mean to wait on the Lord? What is your responsibility to others regarding the judgment that is to come?

1. After Habakkuk focused on the character of God, yet still wrestled with questions as to why God was using this wicked nation to judge Judah, what did Habakkuk do?
 - a. When God answered, what two things did He tell Habakkuk to do?
 - b. When did God say that the vision would be fulfilled? What does this show you about what God says?
2. What does it mean to wait on the Lord? In the account of Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38-42, what did Mary do, and what did Martha do?
 - a. How did Jesus answer Martha's accusations? What did Jesus say that Mary had chosen?
 - b. What is the message to you today? If you wait on the Lord, what can you know?
3. What message did God send through Jeremiah in Jeremiah 1? When did the word of the Lord come to Jeremiah?
 - a. What was God's word to Jeremiah? What was God's plan for him? Where and to whom was Jeremiah to go? What did God do for Jeremiah? How did He equip him?

- b. What did God promise Jeremiah? What did God appoint Jeremiah to do? How did God show this to Jeremiah?
 - c. Why did God say He was bringing this judgment? What specifically had the people of Judah done?
 - d. What did God say to Jeremiah that He was doing concerning His word? What would happen if Jeremiah was dismayed before them?
 - e. What kind of response could Jeremiah expect from the people? What could he expect from God? Why would Jeremiah not be overcome?
 - f. What would you do if God were to tell you to warn people to flee from His coming judgment? What if they did not want to listen?
4. When did Ezekiel prophesy? Where did God tell Ezekiel that He was sending him? How did God describe the sons of Israel? What had they done (Ezekiel 2:1–3:11,17-20)?
- a. What did God say they would know, whether they listened or not? What was Ezekiel given to eat? What do you think this meant Ezekiel was supposed to do with the word of God?
 - b. How did God say the people would respond to Ezekiel? What was Ezekiel's response to be to them? What did God say that He had done?
 - c. What did God tell Ezekiel that He had appointed him to be? What was Ezekiel to do in respect to the wicked? What would happen to Ezekiel and the wicked if Ezekiel did not do as he was told?
 - d. What would happen if Ezekiel warned the wicked, and the wicked did not turn from their wickedness?

5. According to Romans 15:4, why do you need to study these Old Testament passages?

6. According to 2 Thessalonians 1:6-8, what will His coming be like for those who do not know God and who do not obey the gospel?
 - a. In the light of the sin and moral decline in our society—pornography, unrighteousness on television, abortion, rampant homosexuality, the AIDS issue—what must you proclaim about God?

 - b. What did God say about homosexuality in Leviticus 20? When God told Abraham in Genesis 18 that He was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because of sin, what was Abraham's plea? Were there fifty? What was the end result?

 - c. When you seek to be guilty of the blood of no man, in what manner are you to go about proclaiming the Word of God (Galatians 5:22-26; 1 Corinthians 13:1-8; 2 Timothy 2:24-26)?

 - d. What will your hands be like when you stand before the Lord? Are you warning of judgment to come?

CHAPTER 7

In week six you learned from the examples of Habakkuk, Mary, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel what it means to wait on the Lord, and what your responsibility is to warn others of the judgment that is to come.

What does it mean to say “the righteous will live by his faith”?

1. After Habakkuk waited for God to answer, what did God say to him that is the key to all of life, and the key to the whole Word of God?

2. Is faith just intellectual assent? What does the Greek word for faith mean?
 - a. What are the three basic elements involved in true faith or belief?

 - b. How is faith defined in Hebrews 11:1? What does the author of Hebrews say in Hebrews 11:6?

 - c. In light of these definitions, what does it mean that “the righteous will live by his faith”?

3. According to Romans 10:17, where does faith come from? What do you need to understand about the Bible?
 - a. Did Jesus accept the Old Testament as the Word of God? Did He ever contradict the Scriptures or say that the Scriptures were not accurate in all that is in them?

 - b. What did Jesus believe about the creation account (Matthew 19:4-6)?

- c. What Old Testament event did Jesus compare with the coming of the Son of Man (Matthew 24:37-39)? What comparison did Peter make that showed that he accepted the account of the flood (2 Peter 3:1-7)?
 - d. What was Jesus' response to the scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 12:28-41 when they asked Him for a sign? What does His response show that He believed?
 - e. What did Jesus teach the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-27)? What did this show that Jesus believed?
 - f. According to 2 Peter 1:20-21, where did the Bible come from and how was it written? If you are going to live by faith, what must you do (Deuteronomy 8:3)?
4. "The righteous will live by his faith" is quoted three times in the New Testament. How is it used in Romans 1:17? How is it used in Galatians 3:11?
- a. The third place in the New Testament that Habakkuk 2:4 is quoted is in Hebrews 10:38. In what condition were the people who re-ceived the letter to the Hebrews?
 - b. According to Titus 3:5, what makes you acceptable to God? Is it your works?
5. How is it possible for someone to be righteous, according to 2 Corin-thians 5:21? When Christ hung on the cross, what did God do with your sins?
- a. In practical terms, how do the righteous live by faith? What did you learn in Isaiah 40:27-31?
 - b. According to Isaiah 50:10, what are you to do when you have no light?

6. In Habakkuk chapter 2, who is contrasted with the righteous man who lives by his faith?
 - a. In Jeremiah 17:5-8, what did Jeremiah say about those who are blessed? What will they be like?
 - b. What did Jeremiah say about the cursed? What will they be like?
7. Have you been justified by faith? Are you walking by faith?

CHAPTER 8

In week seven you learned what it means to say “the righteous will live by his faith.” You learned that faith is a firm conviction that acknowledges what God has revealed, a surrender to that truth, and a conduct that gives evidence of a surrender. You also saw that faith comes by hearing the Word of God.

What are the woes God pronounced against the “proud one”? Do these woes apply only to the Babylonians or to all who are proud and behave as the Babylonians, trusting in self and idols rather than in God?

1. God said to Habakkuk, “As for the proud one, his soul is not right within him.” How is the proud one described? Who are the proud?

2. God said that the peoples and nations captured by Babylon would take up a taunt-song against the Babylonians. What is this taunt-song about? Are these woes just pronounced against the Babylonians?

3. What is the first woe mentioned in Habakkuk 2:6-8? What will happen to those who do this? Will they get away with it?
 - a. Why would they become plunder for their creditors? Who would be considered their creditors?

 - b. What went along with the looting? What would you say was the Babylonians’ motive in looting and conquering other nations?

 - c. What is the problem that this woe addresses? What is another word for greed (Exodus 20:17)? How does Colossians 3:5-7 define greed?

 - d. What do you usually think of when you hear about idolatry? What exactly is idolatry?

- e. What is God's command concerning covetousness? What did God say to King David through Nathan the prophet after David stole Uriah's wife, Bathsheba, and then took Uriah's life? How does that illustrate greed (2 Samuel 12:1-11)?
 - f. What attitude should you have toward material things, according to 1 John 2:15-17? What is forbidden in these verses? What two things cannot exist together? Why?
 - g. What did you learn from the apostle Paul about riches in 1 Timothy 6:7-12,17-19? What are you to be content with? Is it wrong to have money? What is identified in this passage as being wrong? What are Paul's instructions to the rich?
 - h. In Matthew 6:19-34, what does God say about laying up treasures and trusting Him? Why? What point is Jesus making when He talks about the eye in this passage? Does it fit with anything else you've read or learned in this lesson? What are Jesus' admonitions in this passage?
 - i. Have you ever been a victim of another's greed? Is it idolatry if you have time for a second job to acquire more things, but do not have time for God?
4. What is the second woe? To whom will this woe come? Why is this woe pronounced?
- a. What is the contrast between Christ's attitude in Philippians 2:3-11 and the proud one's attitude in this woe? What are God's specific instructions to the believer in Philippians 2:3-11?
 - b. How did Jesus manifest this attitude with the disciples just before He was betrayed (John 13:4-5)? What did He tell the disciples to do in the light of His washing their feet?
 - c. Are there any aspects of your attitude or your relationships with others where you've been more like the Babylonians than you've been like Jesus?

5. What is the problem dealt with in the third woe? What will happen one day?
 - a. There is much violence in our nation today. What is happening as a result of the violence on TV? What does Proverbs 23:7 say about a man's thinking? According to Matthew 15:18-19, what comes out of the mouth?
 - b. Are violence and bloodshed always the end product of greed? What does God say about anger in Ephesians 4:26-27? What did Jesus say about anger in Matthew 5:22? Even if you are dealing with righteous anger, what is still your responsibility?
 - c. What are you to do with bitterness, according to Ephesians 4:31-32?
 - d. Whatever your situation, what must be remembered, according to Romans 8:28-29?
 - e. According to 2 Peter 3:10-11, what will ultimately happen to whatever men gain? What will happen to those who do not know Christ?
6. What is the fourth woe? What will happen to them? Why will this happen?
7. What is the fifth woe? Why is it pronounced against the proud one? What is the contrast?
8. How do these five woes relate to one another? What is the progression of the woes? What is the root? How does all of this apply to you?

Chapter 9

In week eight you looked at the woes God pronounced against the Babylonians. These woes apply not only to the Babylonians, but to all who are proud and behave as the Babylonians behaved, trusting in self and idols rather than in God. You dealt primarily with the first three woes and saw that the first woe was against greed, the second against self-exaltation, and the third against violence.

1. What is the fourth woe? What does this show you about the drinking that was described? Does this woe apply only to the Babylonians?
 - a. Is this the first time Habakkuk mentioned alcohol in reference to the Babylonians? What did God tell Habakkuk would happen to the Babylonians because of their drinking? Why did He say this would happen?
 - b. What do you know from historical and biblical sources about the Babylonians' attitude toward drinking? According to Daniel 5, what were the Babylonians doing the night the empire fell to the Medes and Persians? Who was king? What were the circumstances? As they were drinking, what happened?
 - c. When you look at this woe, what things seem to be linked with alcohol?
2. What woes did God pronounce on Israel that related to drinking in Isaiah 5? How does Proverbs 20:1 describe the person who is intoxicated by strong drink?
 - a. According to Proverbs 31:4-7, what does strong drink do to you?
 - b. According to Proverbs 23:29-35, what are the effects of too much drink? When are you not to drink? Why? How does this affect your behavior?
 - c. If "wine betrays the haughty man," what should be the Christian's relationship to wine or strong drink? What does Ephesians 5:18 say? What does it mean to be dissipated?

- d. How is drunkenness described in Galatians 5:19-21? What does it mean that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God? If drunkenness is your habit of life, what can you be certain of, according to 1 Corinthians 6:9-11? In this same context, what does Paul say about the Christian's relationship to drink and drunkenness?
 - e. Rather than escape through alcohol, what can you learn from Paul's example in Philippians 4:11-13?
 - f. What does the world call drunkenness? How does that compare with what God says in His Word?
 - g. According to John 8:34-36, if a person is enslaved to alcohol, what is God's cure for it?
 - h. How should you live, according to Galatians 5:16, if you want to have victory? How, then, is the flesh controlled?
3. You have seen what the Word of God has to say about drunkenness, but is it all right for the Christian to drink wine? Is it forbidden to drink mixed drinks? Does the Bible expressly forbid the drinking of wine? Does the absence of such a command allow you the liberty of drinking wine?
- a. What does Romans 14 say in respect to drinking wine? What two groups of people does Paul deal with? What is the response that each had to the other?
 - b. What is Paul's appeal to both groups? Why does he say that they are not to judge the servant of another? How does he reason with them? What is his conclusion? What is Paul's caution about judging your brother?

- c. What will happen when you stand before the judgment seat of God? What is the final principle in this passage that you can apply to determine whether to drink wine or not?

4. Based on Ezekiel 9:3-4, what would you say your responsibility is to those who are drunkards? What did God tell the man with the writing case to do?

5. What is the final woe? Why is this woe pronounced on the proud one? What contrast is given? What kind of idols were being addressed here?
 - a. Idolatry involves more than worshiping something you make with your hands. What exactly is idolatry? When does idolatry occur?

 - b. What command did God give against idolatry in the Ten Commandments? How does idolatry compare with adultery or murder (Exodus 20:3,5-6)?

6. Is there any relationship between idolatry and turning to alcohol to meet your needs?

7. If you agree with man's intellectual reasoning that the Bible is not the inerrant Word of God, is that idolatry? What did Jesus say to the disciples on the road to Emmaus that showed what He believed about the Scriptures (Luke 24:25,27)?

8. Why is God against idolatry? Why is there no place for idolatry? Does God have preeminence in your affections?

Chapter 10

In week nine you looked at the fourth and fifth woes God pronounced on the Babylonians. You saw that those woes apply not only to the Babylonians but to all who live as they did. You also saw that the fourth woe was against drunkenness and the fifth was against idolatry.

1. What is chapter 3 a record of? In 3:1 what is meant by the phrase “a prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, according to Shigionoth”? How does this prayer begin?
 - a. What was Habakkuk’s plea? When Habakkuk asked God to “revive Thy work in the midst of the years,” what was he saying?
 - b. What did Habakkuk mean when he prayed, “In wrath remember mercy”?
2. In verses 3-16, when Habakkuk mentions the judgment that is coming, specifically what judgment is he talking about? Is the coming invasion of the Chaldeans to judge Judah the only subject of this prayer?
 - a. What did Habakkuk say God’s coming would be like in verses 3-4? Are there any similarities to Matthew 24:27?
 - b. According to Habakkuk 3:5, what will happen at His coming? What is the parallel in Revelation 6? What is seen in these six seals?
 - c. What events are described in Habakkuk 3:6-9? What did the prophet say God was doing? What parallels are there in Zechariah 14:3-5,8?
 - d. According to Habakkuk 3:11, what happened to the sun and moon? How does that compare with Matthew 24:29?

- e. What does Habakkuk 3:12 say that God does? How does this parallel the one coming like a Son of Man in Revelation 14:14-20? What does He do? In Revelation 19:15, what similar description do you see?

 - f. In Habakkuk 3:13-14, what did Habakkuk say God would do to the house of evil? How does the account of the beast and the false prophet in Revelation 19:17-21 parallel striking “the head of the house of the evil”?
3. According to Habakkuk 3:13, the Lord is coming not only for judgment, but also for what? What does it mean that the Lord is coming for the salvation of His people?
- a. Does Scripture teach that God is through with the Jews? According to Romans 11:1-2, has God rejected Israel? What happened to Israel, according to Romans 11:7-10,20? What happened as a result of their unbelief (Romans 11:11)?

 - b. What metaphor did Paul use to explain what happened to the Gentiles and Jews (Romans 11:17-24)? What will happen to the Jews if they do not continue in their unbelief (Romans 11:23-24)? What is the ultimate future of Israel (Romans 11:25-27)? What is Paul’s reminder about the gifts and calling of God (Romans 11:29)?

 - c. In Jeremiah 23:3-8, what is God’s promise concerning Israel? When was Jeremiah prophesying?

 - d. In Jeremiah 31:35-40, what did God say about the future of His people Israel? What would it take for the nation of Israel to cease? Is there any relationship between the promises in Jeremiah 31:35-40 and Romans 11?

4. What was Habakkuk's final response (Habakkuk 3:16)? What does that show about faith?
 - a. Why could Habakkuk wait? What did he know about God (Habakkuk 2:20)?
 - b. When Habakkuk said he would wait quietly for the people to come who would invade, what does this show? What did Habakkuk seem to know about his times that is related to Psalm 31:14-15?

5. What was Habakkuk's great statement of faith (Habakkuk 3:17-19)? What does this teach about faith?
 - a. Why could he rejoice? What did he say God did for him in his circumstances? What do hind's feet do for you? What does this indicate that Habakkuk finally understood?
 - b. How does Habakkuk's final response show the fifth and final principle you need to remember? How does this account of Habakkuk compare with Paul's attitude in Philippians 4? What did Paul say about his circumstances?
 - c. Did Habakkuk's circumstances change from the beginning of the book to the end? What did change?
 - d. God contrasts the blessed and the cursed in Jeremiah 17:5-8. What do these verses teach about where your focus needs to be in life if you are going to be able to handle difficult circumstances?

6. What are the five principles that will hold you in difficult circumstances? Where is God when bad things happen?

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