

# HABAKKUK

==== O LORD, HOW LONG? ====

**Text:** 2 Peter 3:11-18

I believe God is working in great ways today!

I honestly believe that these are times of purifying. God wants to strip away the excess and the unnecessary and get us back to essential things.

The longer you or I hold onto things that aren't necessary the longer we will live without peace, and in fear. Stress will wreck our life. But during these difficult times we tend to wonder, "How long?"

That is the stage in which the book of Habakkuk opens. "How long, O LORD?"

## 1. Habakkuk and his \_\_\_\_\_ - Habakkuk 1:1

**The prophet Habakkuk:** We don't know much about the **prophet Habakkuk** from any other book in the Bible. Since he prophesied the coming Babylonian army and its destruction of Judah, he prophesied some time before that invasion. Many think that Habakkuk ministered sometime during the reign of King Johoiakim, perhaps around the year 607 B.C.

We don't know how old Habakkuk was when he gave this prophecy, but it is likely that he lived during the time of godly king Josiah (640 to 609 B.C.)

Habakkuk had a **burden** – not only in the sense of a message from God, but also in the sense of a heavy weight.

Burdens... Oh my! Do we have burdens today! A burden is something that weighs on you.

What is your burden today? What do you do with your burdens? Internalize them? Post them on Facebook?

What Habakkuk saw was a burden to him... And He went to the Lord.

*1 Peter 5:7 “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”*

There are a lot of cares today. Take your burdens to the Lord!

The name **Habakkuk** means, “He Who Embraces” or “He Who Clings.” It is an appropriate name for both the prophet and the book, because Habakkuk comes to a firm faith through tough questions.

## **2. Why does God delay \_\_\_\_\_ . - Habakkuk 1:2-4**

Habakkuk looked at the **violence** and injustice around him in the nation of Judah. He wondered where God was, and why God did not set things right.

Why God allows us to see iniquity in our self:

- To keep us humble.
- To keep us submissive to Him in the hour of trouble.
- To make us value salvation all the more.

Why God allows us to see iniquity in others:

- To show us what we might have been ourselves.
- To make us see the wickedness of sin, that we might pass by it and not do it ourselves.
- To make us admire the grace of God when He saves sinners.
- To make us more diligent in service that God can use us to save others and extend God's kingdom.

Habakkuk saw trouble and sin everywhere, from personal relationships to the courts of law. This disturbed him so much that he cried out to God and asked God why He didn't bring judgment and immediately correct things.

**Conclusion:** We might ask the same question. God why are you allowing this? Both the wickedness and the trouble. Perhaps they are connected.

Here is the truth I was you to leave with today. When you have burdens. Take them to God.

You might think you know what God is up to. You might think you know how you should respond. But when you take your burden to the Lord you often get a response that you didn't expect.



## GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION

1. How did God use today's message in your heart?
2. What is your burden?
3. Explain how giving your burdens to the Lord is the only solution?
4. Have you ever tried to deal with your burdens another way? What was the result?
5. God cares for you. What does that care look like?

### **Answers to blanks**

burden

judgement