

# HABAKKUK

## LESSON # 4

1:5-17

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*Your memory verse is Habakkuk 1:5.*

As we study Habakkuk it is important to note that when a godly man cried out to the Lord with anguished questions, God did not rebuke him—*He answered him*. Our great God was neither ashamed nor threatened by Habakkuk's honest questions; on the contrary, the Holy Spirit personally preserved both the questions and their answers in the Scriptures so that all believers of all time—including you, now—may listen in.

Read through the entire book of Habakkuk. This is an important step—if you are to let the word of God dwell in you richly, you need to read it over and over, giving it a chance to take up residence in your heart and mind! ▣

1. Last week we looked at Habakkuk's first question for God: How long will You turn a blind eye and tolerate rampant sin in Your chosen people? In verses 5–11, God answers Habakkuk's complaint by telling him what He is going to do about the problem of Judah's rebellion. From His opening statement in vs. 5, what degree of judgment should the people of Judah expect?
2. What is God's plan for bringing judgment on His people? See vss. 6–11.
3. What is God's assessment of the Chaldeans, as stated in 1:6–11?

4. In Jeremiah 51:20–24 God gives another assessment of the Chaldeans (the entire chapter is a prophecy of Babylon’s impending judgment and doom). How does He describe this nation here?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Look again at Jeremiah 51:24, and Habakkuk 1:11. Who will be held responsible for the Chaldeans’ evil actions against Judah?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Wait a minute—If God was using the Chaldeans to judge Judah’s sin (vss. 5, 6), how could He still hold them guilty? What principle can we learn from this?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Many people today seek to shrug off responsibility for their sin by claiming, “God made me this way, so how could He judge me?” This blame game actually originated in the Garden of Eden. How did Adam try to escape responsibility for his sin in Genesis 3:12? How successful was this attempt to evade judgment, according to Genesis 3:17–19?



Deuteronomy 4:25-31. What had God revealed long ago about His plans for Israel? What was he affirming about God when he stated that “we will not die”?

13.If God wasn't using the Chaldeans to annihilate Judah, what was His purpose in bringing them against His people? See vs. 12.

14.One of the major themes in the book of Habakkuk is the purpose of judgment this side of the grave. What do the following Scriptures teach us about God's disposition towards His people as He disciplines them?

Deuteronomy 5:29

Judges 2:11-18

Hebrews 12:4-11

15. Some people might cringe at the idea of God judging His people this way during their earthly lives. Why must He do this? What would be the consequences for us if He refused to chasten us?

16. How have you seen the disciplining hand of God in your life? How do you usually respond when He chastens you? How should you respond?

17. What troubles Habakkuk in vs. 13?

18. Each of the following Scriptures teaches us something about how God uses man's sin. For each one, note who is sinning, and what God brings about from that sin.

Genesis 50:15-20

Exodus 7:3-4, 13-14; 8:15

Job 1:6-12

Acts 4:27-28 (24-26 for context)

James 1:13

19. Habakkuk was distressed and confused by what he saw God doing around him, yet his responses still demonstrated faith and trust—he still went *to God* with his questions *about God*. How can we follow his example when circumstances around us seem to contradict the promises of God? How do *you*, specifically, need to change your attitudes towards His puzzling providence? What are some questions that you are wrestling with?

*God moves in a mysterious way  
His wonders to perform;  
He plants His footsteps in the sea  
And rides upon the storm.*

*Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,  
But trust Him for His grace;  
Behind a frowning providence  
He hides a smiling face.*

*~William Cowper*