

4. In Psalm 73 we have the inner thoughts of another godly man, struggling to make sense of God's dealings with sinful men. Read this Psalm, then answer the following questions:
- a. What troubled the Psalmist? See vss. 1-14.

 - b. What was the Psalmist tempted to do, and what would have been the consequences? See vs. 15.

 - c. What did he do instead, and how did this affect his thoughts and understanding? See vss. 17-20.

 - d. In vss. 21-24 the Psalmist describes the change that took place in his heart when he finally took his questions to God rather than simply pondering them within his own heart. How did God deal with his questions, and how did this affect him?

 - e. What heart change resulted from the Psalmist's change of perspective? See vss. 25-28.

8. What phrases does God use in vs. 3 to emphasize the certainty of this prophecy? Why is He so intent that His people know and believe this? How would it help them to survive the coming decades of captivity?

9. As God begins His response to Habakkuk, He draws a contrast between two types of people in vss. 4-5. How does He describe them, and what is the difference between the two?

10. We will begin with *the proud*. First, define this word [Strong's #H6075]. Then, read vs. 4 in several different versions, such as NIV or Holman (you can easily do this using blueletterbible.org). What additional insights did you gain into the nature of these "proud" ones?

11. Vs. 4 tells us that the proud man's *soul is not right within him*. What do the following verses tell us about what is wrong with the soul of the proud? What does a man's pride lead him to do?

Deuteronomy 8:14

2 Chronicles 26:16

2 Chronicles 32:25

Proverbs 16:5

*“Sin is fundamentally the exaltation of self at the expense of God.”
~John R.W. Stott*

12. In contrast to the proud ones, God describes the “righteous.” Define *righteous* [Strong’s #H6662]. According to Ecclesiastes 7:20 and Romans 3:10, who is righteous?

13. Ever since sin separated us from God at the Fall, mankind’s central problem has been how to attain the righteousness we lost. Without it, we can never draw near to our holy God!

a. How was righteousness achieved in the Old Testament? See Genesis 15:6.

b. How is righteousness achieved in the New Testament? See Romans 3:21–25; Ephesians 2:8–9.

14. Also translated “faithfulness,” *faith* is an important Old Testament concept emphasizing loyalty, truth, and trust. According to vs. 4, what effect does faith have in a person’s life? What do you think this phrase means?

15. In contrast to the proud who trust in themselves, vs. 4 tells us that *the righteous will live by his faith*. This is one of the central themes of all of Scripture, and the theological center of this book. Habakkuk 2:4 is quoted three separate times in the New Testament, to a new covenant audience. First, look at how Paul uses this verse in Romans 1:17 and Galatians 3:11. What point is he making in each case (you will have to read each verse in its context to figure it out), and how does that add to our understanding of what it means for the righteous to “live by faith”?

16. Now that we understand how Paul uses this verse, we will look at the third place this verse is quoted in the New Testament. Read Hebrews 10:38. What point is this author making?

17. How does Habakkuk's original historical context relate to the message the author of Hebrews is trying to get across?

18. As we come to the end of this lesson, ask yourself: What are you trusting in for righteousness—for salvation? How do you know? Does your life display the ongoing work of faith? In what ways? Is it evident to others?

*In union with Christ two things happen:
His righteousness is imputed to us, and, because of that,
a new impulse is given to become what we are.
~John Piper*