

QT Questions—for Habakkuk

(Here's a short introduction to the book of Habakkuk from my Study Bibles.)

- Habakkuk contends with two main questions: Why God permits evil to flourish (1:1-4), and how, if God is righteous, a wicked nation could function as the means of judgment (1:12-2:1). Habakkuk also protest that the righteous—himself included—are suffering punishment alongside those who deserve such judgment.
- God answers by declaring that the righteous shall live by faith (2:4)—in other words, the prophet will have to trust that God knows what He is doing. Centuries later, NT writers like the Apostle Paul quote this verse to show that faith is the only path to righteousness (Rom 1:17; Gal 3:11; Heb 10:38). Within the book of Habakkuk, God clarifies why He is just in bringing calamity via the Babylonians (Hab 2:6-20). The end of the book signals that Habakkuk finds God's answer sufficient: In the closing verses, He praises God (3:1-19).
- We still find ourselves in Habakkuk's predicament—we wrestle with God as we try to understand the presence of evil in the world. We are easily and quickly discouraged. Habakkuk reminds us to shift our questions from the evil surrounding us and instead focus on the ways of God. We might not always understand how God works, but if we truly seek Him, we will learn the same thing Habakkuk did: God is just, faithful and worthy to be praised. We can always cry out to God, knowing that He is good. It takes patience to see God's plans come to fruition, but ultimately He will prevail.

Hab 1 (5/28/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. What was troubling the prophet Habakkuk (vv. 1-4; 12-17); what was God's surprising answer and why would God do that (vv. 5-11); what do you learn?
- The prophet cried out in v. 2, "Why do You make me look at injustice? Why do You tolerate wrongdoing?" While I appreciate the prophet's relative holy lifestyle, we see people, even the prophet, are very self-centered. The injustice he sees is such a small fraction of what our God sees. And some people might argue, if that's the case, then his second question makes sense, "Why do You tolerate wrongdoing?" Again, while it is true that these evil people are committing great evil, we often forget, they are not the only ones doing evil. So has he. So, have we. They are not the only ones doing wrongdoing. So are we. In fact, if our God did not look at our injustice and tolerated our wrongdoing, then we will all be condemned because the wages of our sins demand our destruction. If righteousness prevailed in our sinfulness, then God's wrath is the only fruit we will eat. We are doomed, done, unless God looked at our injustice and tolerated our wrongdoings, because He is a merciful God, who does not treat us as our sins deserve, because He is a gracious God, who gifts us with blessings we did not earn. Let's learn to not repeat the sins of others around us. Let's learn more to not be so quick to judge and condemn others for their evil, for we can find ourselves doing what we should not do. But, most importantly, let's learn to see our God's longsuffering patience, learn how to overlook at the injustice of others, and learn again to even tolerate their wrongdoing, not because it's ok, but, because our God treated us such. May our God be our view, our picture, our example, our delight, to learn and grow and imitate and obey, for we desire nothing more to grow more like He, more than anything or anyone. Oh Lord, bless us to have our eyes fixed on You.

Hab 2 (5/29/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. What is the difference between the righteous and the evil and will you describe how that may look today; what is God's desire for the earth to be filled with and why and how can that be; what do you learn?
- God says in v. 3, "For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay." God's word, God's truth, God's promise will always be done as God says. But, it will always be done in His time, only at His appointed time. It may appear to us that it is lingering, that it may appear to be false, that it will not come. However we may perceive, however differently many people might declare, in the end, it will be proven that they are wrong, their perceptions and understandings and their scientific proofs by their experts are wrong. God is true, so He will always prove to be right. So, we must not let the present perceptions, especially those that may speak falsely or contradictorily against God's truth, to have our faith. We must learn to silence their voices. God alone is truly true and right, and thus, it is before Him, we need to learn to sit quietly, to listen, to trust and to obey. Let God be true and every person (that speaks differently than our God) be a liar (Rom 3:4). The righteous will live by faith, as we place all of our faith in our Savior and Lord, and lovingly delight to obey Him however differently He will sound and look before the world. He is true, and they are not.

Hab 3 (5/30/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. Of the many ways God is described, which ones comfort you and which ones frightens you; what did the prophet see presently and yet what was his attitude on God and why (vv. 16-19); what do you learn?
- This chapter opens with the words, "A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet. On shigionoth." A shigionoth refers to the musical setting of these words. So, as we can see, it's a prayer that is set in music. How about that, prayer in music. Usually, we do these two separately. But, there are times, we can do them together. We can sing prayerfully, as if we are praying. And we can pray out loud, as if we are singing. Have you done either or both? We should. Of course, these are not the only ways to sing or to pray, but we definitely should incorporate them into our lives, and sing more prayerfully and pray more out loud like songs. Having said that, we shouldn't pray and sing only as recorded by the artists of our day. They can bless us deeply; however, at times, I find their words are not always consistent with God's word, and when that's the case, then we shouldn't use their words. We should have the knowledge and wisdom to change them properly, so we can rightly pray and sing according to God's truth. But, one thing we should definitely do more is pray and sing with His truth.