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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Minor Prophets, Major Messages | Habakkuk: I Will Rejoice

Use with the full teaching and a Bible. Read or watch first, complete the questions, then discuss and apply. For family study, an adult can select suitable portions and accept spoken answers.

Test the teaching's explanations against the cited passages. Keep the answer key and facilitator notes separate when distributing learner pages.

[Open the full teaching](#)

Teaching summary

This teaching examines Habakkuk's struggle to trust God amid violence and apparent injustice. Before Babylon conquered Judah, the prophet saw idolatry, oppression, and disregard for the law around him. The book takes the form of a dialogue with God rather than a direct address to the people. Habakkuk asks why God seems silent while the righteous suffer and justice is distorted. His questions express real distress rather than indifference to God's ways.

God answers that he will raise up the Chaldeans, or Babylonians, as an instrument of judgment. Their violence and ruthless power make this answer deeply troubling to Habakkuk. He asks how a righteous God can use such a wicked nation against Judah, then takes his place like a watchman awaiting an answer. God instructs him to record a vision promising Babylon's judgment at an appointed time. Delay does not cancel the promise: the righteous are called to live by faith as they wait.

Five woes expose Babylon's greed, violence, exploitation, drunkenness, and idolatry. Its role in judging Judah does not excuse its own evil. The final chapter turns to prayer, recalling God's past acts of judgment and deliverance, including the Exodus and the conquest of Canaan. Remembering God's power leads Habakkuk to confidence. Even if crops fail and flocks disappear, he resolves to rejoice in the God of his salvation, who remains his strength.

Habakkuk's dialogue shows that believers can bring pain, confusion, and anger honestly to God while seeking to trust his wisdom. Their perspective is limited, but God's past works provide grounds for hope. The teaching connects this remembrance with the biblical festivals, especially Passover's memorial of deliverance from Egypt. Remembering that God saved before helps believers await future rescue without pretending that present suffering is easy or fully understood.

James also joins joy in trials with patient expectation of justice. Trials produce steadfastness, while the suffering caused by exploitative oppressors will not be ignored. Paul's use of Habakkuk 2:4 in Romans 1:16-17 likewise connects faith with confidence in God's revealed promise despite present appearances. The gospel declares salvation, while Romans also affirms judgment on unrighteousness. Living by faith means trusting that God's announced purposes will prevail.

The teaching connects Habakkuk's hope with Yeshua's redemption and the future fullness of his kingdom, when evil, suffering, and death will end. In 1 Peter 1:3-9, the Messiah's resurrection gives believers a living hope and an imperishable inheritance even while trials grieve them. Their joy

rests on the promised future rather than what they can currently see. Like Habakkuk, they are called to await God's appointed time and rejoice in YHWH as their strength.

Summary points

- Habakkuk brings his distress about violence and distorted justice directly to God.
- God announces that Babylon will be an instrument of judgment on Judah.
- Habakkuk struggles to understand why God would use a wicked nation.
- Babylon's own evil will be judged at God's appointed time.
- The righteous are called to live by faith while awaiting fulfillment.
- Remembering God's past deliverance strengthens confidence in future salvation.
- Habakkuk chooses joy in God even when ordinary sources of provision fail.
- Biblical memorials such as Passover help believers remember God's saving works.
- James and Paul connect faithful endurance with the certainty of judgment and salvation.
- Yeshua's resurrection gives living hope while believers await the end of suffering.

Fill in the blank

Use the teaching and the cited Bible passages. Equivalent wording is welcome when it expresses the same meaning.

Basic

1. The book is presented as a dialogue between Habakkuk and _____.
2. God announces that _____ will be used to judge Judah.
3. The righteous shall live by _____.
4. Habakkuk recalls God's saving works in the _____ to strengthen his confidence.
5. Even if the crops and flocks fail, Habakkuk chooses to _____ in YHWH.
6. The Messiah's resurrection gives believers a living _____.

Challenging

1. The Babylonians are also called the _____ in Habakkuk 1:6.
2. Habakkuk describes himself waiting for God's answer at his _____.
3. God pronounces _____ woes upon Babylon's sins.
4. The festival specifically used as a memorial of deliverance from Egypt is _____.
5. James 1 says the testing of faith produces _____.
6. Paul quotes Habakkuk's statement about living by faith in Romans _____.

Group discussion

Discuss respectfully and support answers from the passages. Use these lines for brief notes or a notebook for longer responses.

1. What do Habakkuk's two complaints reveal about his concern for justice?

2. Why was God's first answer difficult for Habakkuk to accept?

3. How can honest questions and trust in God belong together?

4. Why does remembering past deliverance help when present circumstances remain painful?

5. How do James and Paul develop the connection between faith, endurance, and future justice?

6. What would it mean to ground joy in God's promised future without denying the reality of present trials?

Answer key

For the leader or parent. Answers follow the teaching and the passages. Accept equivalent wording that expresses the same meaning.

Basic

1. God (also: YHWH)

Habakkuk 1:2-4; 2:1-2

2. Babylon (also: the Babylonians, the Chaldeans)

Habakkuk 1:5-11; teaching overview

3. faith (also: faithfulness)

Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17

4. past

Habakkuk 3:2-16; teaching major message

5. rejoice

Habakkuk 3:17-19

6. hope

1 Peter 1:3

Challenging

1. Chaldeans

Habakkuk 1:6

2. watchpost (also: watchtower, tower)

Habakkuk 2:1

3. five (also: 5)

Habakkuk 2:6-20; teaching overview

4. Passover (also: Pesach)

Teaching major message; Exodus 12:14

5. steadfastness (also: perseverance, endurance, patience)

James 1:2-4

6. 1:17 (also: 1:16-17)

Romans 1:17

Facilitator notes

These responses give direction for discussion. They are not a test of identical wording. Invite participants to explain the passages and consider a faithful practical response.

1. First, he laments violence, ignored Torah, and perverted justice within Judah. Second, he questions how YHWH can use a nation still more ruthless as his instrument. Both complaints come from concern for righteousness, and Habakkuk remains in conversation with God while waiting for an answer.

Habakkuk 1:2-4, 12-17; 2:1

2. Babylon's cruelty seemed to compound the problem Habakkuk wanted addressed. YHWH's response does not call Babylon innocent: the vision promises judgment on its greed, violence, exploitation, and idolatry too. Being used within God's purposes does not excuse a nation's wrongdoing.

Habakkuk 1:5-17; 2:6-20

3. Habakkuk names his confusion, listens, waits, and ultimately trusts YHWH's promise. Honest lament need not be a rejection of faith. We can bring pain to God without pretending to understand every event or claiming an answer that the passage does not give.

Habakkuk 1:2-4; 2:1-4; 3:17-19

4. Remembering YHWH's saving acts gives grounds for trusting his character when circumstances remain unresolved. Habakkuk's prayer recalls earlier deliverance, and the teaching applies this pattern to Passover. Remembrance nourishes hope without promising that our particular trial will end immediately or in the way we prefer.

Habakkuk 3:2-19; Exodus 12:14; teaching major message

5. James connects tested faith with steadfastness and assures exploited workers that injustice is heard. Paul quotes Habakkuk while announcing salvation for everyone who believes. The teaching joins these texts around trusting God's revealed promise and awaiting justice, rather than confidence in appearances alone.

James 1:2-4; 5:1-8; Romans 1:16-18

6. Habakkuk resolves to rejoice even amid failed crops and empty stalls. Peter likewise holds living hope through Yeshua's resurrection together with real grief in trials. We can anchor hope in God's promise while lamenting honestly, accepting practical help, and supporting others in their suffering.

Habakkuk 3:17-19; 1 Peter 1:3-9

Facilitator reminders

Joy and lament can coexist. Do not require participants to sound cheerful, explain why a tragedy happened, or disclose painful experiences. The promise is grounded in YHWH's faithfulness and Yeshua's resurrection.

The Passover connection is the teaching's practical illustration of remembrance. It is not a claim that Habakkuk names the festival in chapter 3.

Put it into practice

Choose one response to the passages. What will we do, and when will we revisit it? Share only what you are comfortable sharing.