

WHEN GOD SEEMS UNFAIR

the prophet HABAKKUK



WEEK 1 - What the heck?

This week we focus on chapter 1. In it, the prophet's honest dialogue with God, the problem of evil, and God's unexpected response. Habakkuk opens with the prophet crying out to God about violence and injustice in Judah. God responds—not with comfort, but with a shocking plan: He is raising up the Babylonians as an instrument of judgment.

MONDAY – When God Seems Silent

Read Habakkuk 1:1–4. This is Habakkuk's complaint: *"How long, O LORD?"*

What emotions do you see in Habakkuk's words? Have you ever felt like God was silent when injustice was all around? Why might God allow injustice to persist for a time?

Prayer Prompt

Ask God to give you the faith to keep calling out to Him, even when His silence feels heavy.

TUESDAY — God's Unexpected Answer

Read Habakkuk 1:5–6. *"I am doing something in your days—you would not believe it if you were told."*

How does God's answer challenge Habakkuk's expectations? Why might God use surprising or even painful means to accomplish His purposes? Can you recall a time God worked in a way you didn't expect?

Prayer Prompt

Pray for eyes to see God's hand at work, even in ways that feel uncomfortable or confusing.

WEDNESDAY — The Rise of Babylon

Read Habakkuk 1:6–11 - God describes the Babylonian army.

What do we learn about Babylon's strength and character? How does this description help us understand the seriousness of God's judgment? How can God be just and still use unjust nations?

Prayer Prompt

Ask God to help you trust His justice, even when it looks different from your own sense of fairness.

THURSDAY — Wrestling with God's Justice

Read Habakkuk 1:12–13. *“Your eyes are too pure to look on evil.”*

What is the tension Habakkuk feels between God’s holiness and His use of wicked Babylon? How does this reflect the struggles of believers today? What do you do when God’s actions seem to conflict with His character?

Prayer Prompt

Bring your honest questions to God. He invites us to wrestle, just as Habakkuk did.

FRIDAY — Waiting in Faith

Read Habakkuk 1:14–17 - The prophet’s continued questioning.

How does Habakkuk describe the Babylonians’ treatment of nations? What feelings of helplessness do you see? What does this teach us about the posture of faith amid unanswered questions?

Prayer Prompt

Ask for patient faith—a heart that waits on God even when you don’t yet see the answer.

Final Thought

Habakkuk Chapter 1 teaches us that God welcomes our questions. The path of faith often includes confusion and lament—but God listens, and He is always at work, even in ways we do not understand.

WEEK 2 — The waiting is the hardest part.

This week we focus on Habakkuk 2. In this chapter, Habakkuk waits for God’s answer and receives a vision. God assures him that justice will come in time, pronounces “woes” against the proud and corrupt, and calls the righteous to live by faith.

MONDAY – Waiting for God’s Response

Read Habakkuk 2:1 - *“I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts...”*

What does Habakkuk’s posture of watchfulness teach us about faith? How do you respond when you’re waiting on God for an answer? Why is it important to be spiritually alert and patient?

Prayer Prompt

Ask God to help you develop a posture of patient waiting and expectation during seasons of silence or confusion.

TUESDAY – The Righteous Shall Live by Faith

Read Habakkuk 2:2–4 - *“Though it linger, wait for it... the righteous will live by his faith.”*

What does it mean to “wait for the vision”? How does verse 4 contrast the proud and the righteous? How do you live by faith when things look unjust?

Prayer Prompt

Pray for strength to live by faith each day, trusting God even when answers seem delayed.

WEDNESDAY – Woe to the Oppressor

Read Habakkuk 2:5–8 - *“Woe to him who piles up stolen goods...”*

What kind of injustice is being described here? What does this say about how God views greed and exploitation? In what ways do you see this kind of injustice today?

Prayer Prompt

Confess any places where greed or injustice might exist in your own life, and ask for a heart aligned with God's justice.

THURSDAY – God Sees All Injustice

Read Habakkuk 2:9–17 - Woes against injustice, violence, and shame

What are the specific wrongs God condemns here (vv. 9–17)? How does this section show God's long view of justice? What hope does this give to those suffering from oppression?

Prayer Prompt

Ask God to give you His heart for the oppressed and the courage to stand for righteousness.

FRIDAY – God Is on the Throne

Read Habakkuk 2:18–20 - *“The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him.”*

How do idols contrast with the living God in these verses? Why is the silence of verse 20 so powerful after the noise of injustice? How can awe of God reshape your perspective on injustice and waiting?

Prayer Prompt

Take time in silence today, meditating on God's holiness and sovereignty.

Final Thought

Habakkuk 2 reminds us that God is neither unaware nor indifferent to injustice. Though His justice may seem delayed, it is never denied. The call to live by faith, even amid injustice and uncertainty, is the foundation of a righteous life.

WEEK 3 — I'll praise you anyway.

This is a 5-day study guide on Habakkuk Chapter 3, a powerful and poetic chapter that shifts from lament to praise. In it, the prophet remembers God's mighty works, pleads for mercy, and expresses unshakable trust in God—regardless of his circumstances. Habakkuk's final chapter is a prayer set to music. It recalls God's past deliverance, pleads for mercy in the present, and ends in bold trust for the future—even when everything else is falling apart.

MONDAY – A Prayer for Mercy

Read Habakkuk 3:1–2 - *"In wrath, remember mercy."*

How does Habakkuk begin this prayer compared to the complaints of chapters 1 and 2? What does it mean to ask God to show mercy even during judgment? In what areas of your life or community do you need to ask God for both revival and mercy?

Prayer Prompt

Pray for God to "renew His works" in your life and community, even in times of discipline or waiting.

TUESDAY– Remembering God's Power

Read Habakkuk 3:3–7 - God's glorious power displayed in history

What images and emotions are stirred by Habakkuk's description of God coming in power? Why do you think he is remembering past acts of deliverance? How can remembering God's past faithfulness strengthen you today?

Prayer Prompt

Spend time recalling how God has shown up for you or others in the past. Give Him thanks for His faithfulness.

WEDNESDAY – God's Sovereign Might

Read Habakkuk 3:8–15 - God fights for His people

What stands out to you about God's power over nature and nations? What does this tell you about God's ability to bring justice? How does this affect your view of God when facing today's challenges?

Prayer Prompt

Worship God for His sovereignty and strength. Trust that He is still the God who rescues.

THURSDAY – Waiting in Quiet Trust

Read Habakkuk 3:16 - *"I will wait patiently..."*

What physical and emotional reactions does Habakkuk describe here? How does he move from fear to faith? What does waiting on God look like in your own struggles?

Prayer Prompt

Ask God for the peace to wait patiently even when you feel weak or afraid.

FRIDAY – Rejoicing in All Circumstances

Read Habakkuk 3:17–19 - *"Yet I will rejoice in the Lord..."*

How does Habakkuk respond to total loss and devastation? What does it mean to “rejoice in the Lord” rather than in circumstances? How can you practice joy and trust, even in hard times?

Prayer Prompt

Declare your trust in God—regardless of what’s missing or broken. Ask Him to help you rejoice in who He is.

Final Thought

Habakkuk’s journey moves from questioning to worship, from fear to faith. Chapter 3 is a reminder that though life can fall apart, our God never does. He is faithful, powerful, and worthy of praise—no matter what.