

# WHEN GOD GIVES HIS ANSWER

Habakkuk 3:16-19

21 April 2023

## **READ HABAKKUK 3:16-19**

Habakkuk wanted answers from God. When God answered, it was all bad news on the horizon. Yet, this man still found reason to rejoice in the Lord. We ought to always find reason to rejoice, in good times and bad. Habakkuk was also concerned about defending God's name and His holiness. God is not to be blamed for our disobedience.

A prophet goes to men on behalf of God and says, *"This is what God said."* (See Ezek. 2:7).

God's words to a prophet are not always pleasant. Habakkuk called it a burden (Hab. 1:1). (cf. Mal. 1:1).

## HABAKKUK'S COMPLAINT

God's prophets often brought their complaints to God (Hab. 1:2; Jer. 12:1-2).

- Habakkuk couldn't understand why God was allowing the wicked to prosper and continue to do wickedly. (**Hab. 1:12-13**).
- You can respectfully talk to God about the things that are on your mind. He doesn't respect *"cookie-cutter prayers."* (Mt. 6:7). He wants you to talk to Him from your heart, using your real voice (not a fake *"prayer voice"*).

## THE LORD'S CONDEMNATION

- Habakkuk knew God would reprove him (tell him why he is wrong, reveal his fault). (**Hab 2:1**)
  - People fail to talk to God because they know He will reprove them. Habakkuk wanted to know where he was wrong so he could correct his thinking.
- God promised to deal with sinful men in His own way and time. He pronounced 5 *"woes."*
  - Woe to the man who cannot be satisfied (**Hab. 2:5-6**). In his greed, he must have more.
  - Woe to the covetous man who thinks he can meet his own needs (**Hab. 2:9**).
  - Woe to the one who resorts to sinful ways to establish his goals (**Hab. 2:12**).
  - Woe to the one who profits by selling sin (**Hab. 2:15**).
  - Woe to the one who turns to idolatry (**Hab. 2:19**). Covetousness is idolatry (Col. 3:5).
- The timing of God's judgment will be at the Second Coming (**Hab. 3:3, 3:10-12**).

---

## HABAKKUK'S RESPONSE TO HIS TIME WITH THE LORD

HIS REPENTANCE (**Hab. 3:16**). He realized how angry God was at the sin of man and he trembled in fear.

- Repentance is the important first step towards holiness.

HIS RESOLVE (**Hab. 3:17-18**). He decided that no matter how bad things get, he will rejoice in the Lord.

- Compare this to Job 13:15, *"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him ..."*

HIS REJOICING (**Hab. 3:18**). *"Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation."*

HIS RESTORATION (**Hab 3:19**). *"The LORD God is my strength..."*

- Compare with Psalm 23:3 *"He restoreth my soul."*
- See Isaiah 40:28-30. *"They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength"*