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 **LiftNotes**

Knowing God through the Old Testament: Habakkuk

May 24th, 2026 by Kasey Crawford

Today's Passages: Habakkuk

Habakkuk is a fantastic example of authentic relationship with God, which includes raw emotion, lament, a bit of _____ and honest wrestling with God.

Being _____ with God is necessary for us to have an authentic relationship with God. Yet, we all struggle at times to tell God the truth.

The prayer conversation between Habakkuk and God can inspire to be people of courageous truth with God so that we can walk in the light of true intimacy with God, with nothing hidden.

The book opens with a very raw and honest prayer.

O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save? ³ Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. ⁴ So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted. Habakkuk 1:2-4

He _____ like God doesn't hear him. He _____ like God is not saving him. He _____ like God is doing nothing about evil. He _____ like Justice is not being upheld...

Spoiler alert: Those things are not true about God.

However, if he wasn't honest with God about how he felt and brought it to God, then these lies about God's character would stay in his heart and actually begin to form strongholds that would become hardened beliefs that would separate Habakkuk from God, through disappointment and unbelief.

God responds to Habakkuk in a gentle way...

"Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told. ⁶ For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans..." Habakkuk 1:5-6

One can observe that God is not upset that Habakkuk said some pretty awful things about God. God just answers his cry and says: "I'm at work even when you can't perceive it. Trust me."

Then Habakkuk complains some and waits for God to answer him...

I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower, and look out to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint. Habakkuk 2:1

Something absolutely crucial to see in this honest conversation with God is that though he is complaining with raw negative emotions, he is seeking the Lord and he is open to learning and correction. In contrast, the Israelites in the desert complained from a place of _____.

In God's second answer to Habakkuk (**2:2-14**), God again assures Habakkuk that He is at work, but He also reminds him of some specific promises, that though feel slow, are coming to pass. Ultimately, He reminds Habakkuk that **"the righteous will live by faith (2:4)."**

The book concludes with Habakkuk's response to this honest interaction with God. What is important to observe is the change in Habakkuk, how his mind has been _____ through wrestling with God. He started with raw, negative emotion, stayed open to learning and correction, and finished with declarations of faith in God's promises and praise of God's character.

O LORD, I have heard the report of you, and your work, O LORD, do I fear... Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, ¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. ¹⁹ GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places. Hab 3:1,17-18

Through honest wrestling with God, he had a new _____ to sing!
To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. Habakkuk 3:19

Answers:complaining,honest,feels (x4),conclusion,renewed,testimony