

# Habakkuk: A Prayer

A dramatic landscape photograph. The foreground is a golden field, possibly wheat, with a dirt road curving from the bottom right towards the center. In the distance, a small white building is visible on the horizon. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, with a bright, golden light breaking through on the left side, suggesting a storm or sunset. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw.

<sup>2</sup> O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,  
and you will not hear?

Or cry to you “Violence!”  
and you will not save?

**Habbakuk 1:1-2**

<sup>5</sup> “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.

<sup>6</sup> For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans,  
that bitter and hasty nation,

who march through the breadth of the earth,  
to seize dwellings not their own.

**Habbakuk 1:5-6**

<sup>12</sup> Are you not from everlasting,  
O Lord my God, my Holy One?  
We shall not die.

O Lord, you have ordained them as a judgment,  
and you, O Rock, have established them for reproof.

<sup>13</sup> You who are of purer eyes than to see evil  
and cannot look at wrong,

why do you idly look at traitors  
and remain silent when the wicked swallows up  
the man more righteous than he?

**Habbakuk 1:12-13**

<sup>6</sup> Shall not all these take up their taunt against him, with scoffing and riddles for him, and say,  
“Woe to him who heaps up what is not his own—  
for how long?—  
and loads himself with pledges!”

**Habbakuk 2:6-8**

4 “Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him,  
but the righteous shall live by his faith.

**Habbakuk 2:4**

11 Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.”

**Galatians 3:11**

Habakkuk asks



Habakkuk waits



Habakkuk listens

# Chapter 3: Habakkuk's prayer



<sup>1</sup> A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, according to Shigionoth.

<sup>2</sup> O Lord, I have heard the report of you,  
and your work, O Lord, do I fear.

In the midst of the years revive it;  
in the midst of the years make it known;  
in wrath remember mercy.

**Habakkuk 3:1-2**

<sup>3</sup> God came from Teman,  
and the Holy One from Mount Paran. *Selah*  
His splendor covered the heavens,  
and the earth was full of his praise.

<sup>4</sup> His brightness was like the light;  
rays flashed from his hand;  
and there he veiled his power.

**Habbakuk 3:3-4**

<sup>5</sup> Before him went pestilence,  
and plague followed at his heels.  
<sup>6</sup> He stood and measured the earth;  
he looked and shook the nations;  
then the eternal mountains were scattered;  
the everlasting hills sank low.  
His were the everlasting ways.  
<sup>7</sup> I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction;  
the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble.

**Habbakuk 3:5-7**

<sup>8</sup> Was your wrath against the rivers, O Lord?  
Was your anger against the rivers,  
or your indignation against the sea,  
when you rode on your horses,  
on your chariot of salvation?

<sup>9</sup> You stripped the sheath from your bow,  
calling for many arrows. *Selah*  
You split the earth with rivers.

<sup>10</sup> The mountains saw you and writhed;  
the raging waters swept on;  
the deep gave forth its voice;  
it lifted its hands on high.

<sup>11</sup> The sun and moon stood still in their place  
at the light of your arrows as they sped,  
at the flash of your glittering spear.

**Habbakuk 3:8-11**

<sup>12</sup> You marched through the earth in fury;  
you threshed the nations in anger.

<sup>13</sup> You went out for the salvation of your people,  
for the salvation of your anointed.

You crushed the head of the house of the wicked,  
laying him bare from thigh to neck. *Selah*

<sup>14</sup> You pierced with his own arrows the heads of his warriors,  
who came like a whirlwind to scatter me,  
rejoicing as if to devour the poor in secret.

<sup>15</sup> You trampled the sea with your horses,  
the surging of mighty waters.

**Habbakuk 3:12-15**

<sup>13</sup> You went out for the salvation of your people,  
for the salvation of your anointed.

You crushed the head of the house of the wicked,  
laying him bare from thigh to neck. *Selah*

**Habbakuk 3:13**

<sup>16</sup> I hear, and my body trembles;  
my lips quiver at the sound;  
rottenness enters into my bones;  
my legs tremble beneath me.  
Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble  
to come upon people who invade us.

**Habbakuk 3:16**

17 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.

To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments.

**Habbakuk 3:17-19**