

OK, Now I Get It
Habakkuk 3:1-19
November 30, 2025
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After receiving assurance of impending judgment, Habakkuk responds with a song of praise and trust.

I. After learning of God's impending judgments, accepts His decisions but pleads in song for God's mercy. (v. 1-2)

A. "Prayer" indicates an intercessory hymn.

B. Shigionoth: is possibly a musical instruction.

"The topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it, neither shall it be valued with pure gold" (Job 28:19).

"All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing the praises of your name. *Selah!*" (Psalm 66:4).

C. *Selah* suggests hearers should pause, ponder and praise.

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!

"Who has known the mind of the Lord?

Or who has been his counselor?"

"Who has ever given to God,
that God should repay them?"

For from him and through him and for him are all things.

To him be the glory forever! Amen. (Romans 11:33-36)

D. Habakkuk instructs the choir master to use his song in public worship.

II. The prophet recalls God's intervention on Israel's behalf as they conquered the peoples in the Promised Land. (v. 3-7)

The Israelites traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!" Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. (Numbers 24:4-6)

The men of Israel began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate the sacrificial meal and bowed down before these gods. So Israel yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor. And the LORD's anger burned against them. (Numbers 25:1-3)

On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled. Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, and the whole mountain trembled violently. (Exodus 19:16-18)

III. The prophet recalls displays of God's power. (v. 8-11)

On the day the Lord gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the Lord in the presence of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon, and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon." So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the nation avenged itself on its enemies, as it is written in the Book of Jashar. The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day. (Joshua 10:12-12)

IV. The prophet recalls God's deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt. (v. 12-15)

"Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure." (Genesis 15:13-16)

The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. The LORD had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians. (Exodus 12:35-36)

V. In remembering the might of the Lord the prophet responds in awe and fear. (v. 16a-b)

Then Job replied to the LORD:

"I know that you can do all things;

no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?'

Surely I spoke of things I did not understand,

things too wonderful for me to know.

“You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak;
I will question you,
and you shall answer me.’
My ears had heard of you
but now my eyes have seen you.
Therefore I despise myself
and repent in dust and ashes.” (Job 42:1-6)

And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever." (Exodus 14:13-14)

Then [Naomi] said, "Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day." (Ruth 3:18)

“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” (Psalm 46:10).

VI. And he determines that no matter how bad things might become, he will trust and worship Yahweh. (v. 16c-18)

VII. Habakkuk closes his book and his song with an expression of full confidence in the Lord. (v. 19)

The LORD is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.
My heart leaps for joy,
and with my song I praise him. (Psalm 28:7)

But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves. Then you will trample on the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I act,” says the LORD Almighty. (Malachi 4:2-3)