

A. VISION

- We need eyes of faith to see God at work in seasons of waiting. Habakkuk sought Him during a wait with no end in sight and gained the vision he needed to wait well.
- He was an OT prophet that lived about 700 years before Christ. Though there's no record that he preached, he was a poet and songwriter who had questions for God.
- Habakkuk begins his book by bringing his big "why" questions directly to the Lord. He asked why the long wait and why God was allowing such hardship. (Hab 1:2)
- He points to the suffering, evil and injustice all around him and begins to dialogue honestly with the Lord. God gave him some answers to prepare him for the future.
- The Lord communicated a simple but profound truth that provides the perfect filter needed for putting difficult waiting situations in proper perspective: Hab 2:4 -- Behold, as for the proud one, his soul is not right within him; but the righteous will live by his faith.
- Habakkuk processed all that God showed him about his particular situation and his vision improved! Seeing the Lord more clearly brought him strength and resolve: Hab 3:1-4 NLT -- This prayer was sung by the prophet Habakkuk: ²I have heard all about you, LORD. I am filled with awe by your amazing works. In this time of our deep need, help us again as you did in years gone by. And in your anger, remember your mercy. ³I see God moving across the deserts from Edom, the Holy One coming from Mount Paran. His brilliant splendor fills the heavens, and the earth is filled with his praise. ⁴His coming is as brilliant as the sunrise. Rays of light flash from his hands, where his awesome power is hidden. Pestilence marches before him; plague follows close behind. ⁶When he stops, the earth shakes. When he looks, the nations tremble. He shatters the everlasting mountains and levels the eternal hills. He is the Eternal One! ⁷I see the people of Cushan in distress, and the nation of Midian trembling in terror. ⁸Was it in anger, LORD, that you struck the rivers and parted the sea? Were you displeased with them? No, you were sending your chariots of salvation! ⁹You brandished your bow and your quiver of arrows. You split open the earth with flowing rivers. ¹⁰The mountains watched and trembled. Onward swept the raging waters. The mighty deep cried out, lifting its hands in submission. ¹¹The sun and moon stood still in the sky as your brilliant arrows flew and your glittering spear flashed. ¹²You marched across the land in anger and trampled the nations in your fury. ¹³You went out to rescue your chosen people, to save your anointed ones. You crushed the heads of the wicked and stripped their bones from head to toe. ¹⁴With his own weapons, you destroyed the chief of those who rushed out like a whirlwind, thinking Israel would be easy prey. ¹⁵You trampled the sea with your horses, and the mighty waters piled high. ¹⁶I trembled inside when I heard this; my lips quivered with fear. My legs gave way beneath me, and I shook in terror. I will wait quietly for the coming day when disaster will strike the people who invade us. ¹⁷Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, ¹⁸yet I will rejoice in the LORD! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation! ¹⁹The Sovereign LORD is my strength! He makes me as surefooted as a deer, able to tread upon the heights.
- The prophet prayed for God to act in power now like He did in the past. It dawned on him that Eternal God will do exactly that as the Scriptural record clearly shows.
- Because we observe Him as a God who acted and intervened whenever His people suffered lack or loss, we can have expectancy and faith in our own times of need.
- Facing our days with the expectation of good will help us see it when it comes!

- Let's ask for God to bless our eyes to see Him clearly both in the pages of our Bibles and especially in our day to day lives: Mt 13:16-17 NLT -- Blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but they didn't see it. And they longed to hear what you hear, but they didn't hear it.
- Habakkuk was able to gaze upon the splendor of our God as meditated on His works. That kind of vision can forever change the way we view life: Ps 27:4 NIV - One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.
- Insights:

B. VICTORY

- Habakkuk saw that God's people can expect victory every single day. His summary statement says so: Hab 3:13 AMP -- You went forth *and* have come for the salvation of Your people, for the deliverance *and* victory of Your anointed people
- Just thinking of the many amazing ways that the Lord has brought victory to His children puts us in touch with His Warrior side. Habakkuk referred to these exploits:
 - Overcoming Pharaoh's hold on Israel with pestilence and plagues (v.5, Exodus 7-12)
 - Pushing back the Red Sea to make a way of escape from Egypt (v. 8, Ex 14:13ff)
 - Winning over His doubting people by bringing forth water from a rock (v. 7, Ex 17:6)
 - Making the enemy nations inhabiting Canaan tremble with fear (vv. 7-8, Josh 2:9-11)
 - Answering Joshua's prayer for the sun to stand still for the win (v. 11, Josh 10:12ff)
 - Causing the Midianites to turn their swords on each other not Gideon (v. 14, Jdg 7:22)
- Seeing the Lord's majesty and power on display produced in Habakkuk a response of worship, submission, a willingness to wait, and faith that victory would come. (v. 16)
- Based on these accounts, we can pray "Just Like" prayers. Ex: "*Lord, I ask You to squelch my doubts with Your mighty works JUST LIKE You did in the Wilderness.*"
- Let's meditate on the ultimate victory that Jesus has secured for us through His death and resurrection. He has saved us and defeated the enemy of our souls: Col 2:15 MSG -- God brought you alive—right along with Christ! Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant canceled and nailed to Christ's cross. He stripped all the spiritual tyrants in the universe of their sham authority at the Cross and marched them naked through the streets.
- The Scripture declares that, through Christ's power in us, we will be triumphant: Rom 8:37 NAS -- In all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us
- When the win is slow in coming, like Habakkuk, we can wait confidently knowing that the battle we're in today won't last forever: Rom 16:20 MSG -- Don't be gullible in regard to smooth-talking evil. Stay alert like this, and before you know it the God of peace will come down on Satan with both feet, stomping him into the dirt. Enjoy the best of Jesus!
- God has also promised that when He leads us safely through the enemy's attacks, He will use those victories to impact others: 2 Cor 2:14 AMP -- But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us spreads *and* makes evident everywhere the sweet fragrance of the knowledge of Him.
- Insights:

C. VINDICATION

- We can join God in the fight as we train our eyes on Him and refuse to let the enemy have the last word in our circumstances.
- Habakkuk used the “Even If” strategy, a radical and effective way to win as we wait. He was determined to be joyful in spite of real or potential loss and lack. (vv. 17 – 18)
- Joy is the birthright of every believer. It lives in us even if we cannot always feel it: Gal 5:22 AMP -- But the fruit of the Spirit [the result of His presence within us] is...joy
- When we are not feeling joyful, let’s go to God and ask Him to show us anything that is blocking or robbing our joy. Satan is a thief, so let’s expose his schemes. (Jn 10:10)
- We can thwart despair and joylessness by using the biblical strategies we’ve learned so far. Habakkuk chose the powerful strategy of rejoicing in the Lord: Ps 8:2 NIV -- Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.
- Rejoicing “is more than mere happiness; it is a profound sense of joy that is rooted in spiritual realities and divine truths.” (Blue Letter Bible)
- “Living well is the best revenge.” (George Herbert) Let’s make the choice every single day to wait well and to live well: Ps 118:24 -- This *is* the day the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.
- LISTENING EXERCISE:
Lord, please identify where I’m not currently experiencing Your victory or joy:

Holy Spirit, I ask You to work in me an attitude of expectancy in the places I have been apathetic or lacking hope:

Please bless my eyes to see Your goodness with greater and greater clarity and awareness. Help me not “despise the day of small things” but to receive with gratitude anything You do. May I see circumstance in light of Your beauty and in light of eternity:

I ask You to reveal the joy robbers in my life that I have either been unaware of or have learned to tolerate:

Draw my attention to the things You’ve placed in my life intended to increase my joy:

Jesus, thank You that You anoint me with the oil of joy. Empower me to choose joy today and every day because it is mine to have in You.

D. PERSONAL APPLICATION

- ONE THING

- The One Thing that I'd like to take away from today's class and believe God to accomplish in my life is:

- PONDER THE TRUTH

Which verse or principle stood out to you this week? Write it below taking some time to review it often. Be still in God's presence, alert for new insights. Record them here.

- PROCESSING THE TRUTH

Prayerfully consider the Listening Exercises from this lesson. Ask the Spirit to guide you into a deeper understanding of the truth and to reveal any specific faith steps He his calling you to take. Write down your insights.