

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 01 March.....Nahum 1-3..... Don't Mess with God
- 2) 08 March..... Zephaniah 1-2..... Everyone is Accountable
- 3) 15 March..... Zephaniah 3..... Our Great Salvation
- 4) 22 March..... Obadiah 1..... Compassion for Lost People
- 5) 29 March..... Zechariah 1-12..... The Promised Messiah
- 6) 05 April..... Luke 24:1-12..... The Declaration
- 7) 12 April..... Luke 24:19-35..... The Promise Fulfilled
- 8) 19 April..... Zechariah 13-14..... A Refined People
- 9) 26 April..... Habakkuk 1-2..... Hard Questions, Hard Answers
- 10) 03 May..... Habakkuk 3..... Awestruck**
- 11) 10 May..... Haggai 1-2..... Seek God First
- 12) 17 May..... Malachi 1..... True Hope
- 13) 24 May..... Malachi 2..... Faithful
- 14) 31 May..... Malachi 3-4..... A Pure People

INTRODUCTION

- There comes a day when God will right all wrongs. Until then, where does our faith reside – In our tough circumstances, or in our unchanging God?
- The title of this chapter is a prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, composed after the manner of a psalm of David, and directed to the chief singer
- Habakkuk's prayer, was set to music, and was used in public worship as the musical term, "Selah!" (Hab 3:3, 9, 13), implies.

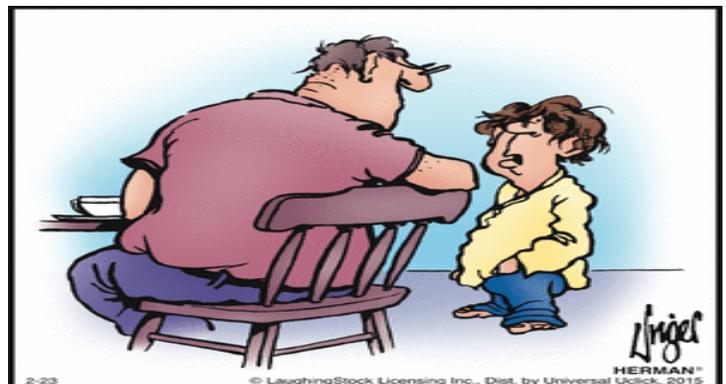
Passage	Comments
3:1-2	<p>"Lord, I Stand In Awe of Your Deeds. Repeat Them"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you noticed how we take things for granted after we have been around them for some time, and we lose respect for them? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Romance often leaves a marriage ◆ We no longer care about the upkeep of what was once new, shiny, and expensive possessions (e.g., car, home, boat, kids, etc.) ◆ We see our church as "what's in it for me" ◆ Even the thrill over our God and our salvation become nothing to get excited about • How do we fix that and maintain a high level of respect and awe of our God and of the precious people and things He gives to us? • Habakkuk takes us through a time warp between the earliest of times and his present dilemma – and he basically pleads for God to repeat His great works, while remembering to be merciful in His wrath <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ If we were to pray for God to repeat His great works of showering down manna, parting the seas, and raising the dead would God do it? He wants us to <i>recall</i> His mighty works, not to have Him repeat them..... Ps 105:5 ◆ HOWEVER, many of His mighty wonders will be repeated in the end times.....Rev 11
v3:1. For you Greek Geeks... What does sheginut or Shigionoth (שגינות) mean?	<p>The verb shegag (שגג) or shege (שגה) means to act inconsiderately; and from shege (שגה) is derived shegiun (שגיון). Many render it, "ignorance;" some, "delight." Some think it to be the beginning of a song; others suppose it to be a common melody; and others, a musical instrument. In Psalm 7, David, calls either a song or some musical instrument by the word shegiun (שגיון) Most probable rendering, it is a musical phrase "after the manner of elegies," or mournful melody like taps</p>
Are There Any Wrong Ways to Pray?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lord's model prayer for us is to extol God's greatness, seek His will for our situation, petition our needs to be met, forgive our sins – for He is worthyLuke 11:2-4 • In contrast, Habakkuk extolled God's greatness for sure, BUT he asked for God's mighty works to be repeated in his day, and he finished with realizing he will need to be patient & faithful while under duress

Passage	Comments
3:3-15	<p>Praise Overshadows Petitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vast majority of this prayer (14 out of 19 vvs, or about 70%) is acknowledging God's mighty works <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ v3. God's splendor covers the heavens & earth ◆ v4. His power and radiance are universal ◆ v5. He invokes plagues and pestilence ◆ v6. He controls the earth's topology ◆ v7. He rattles the greatest of nations ◆ vv8-10. He controls the rivers and seas to deliver life or death ◆ v11. Even the Sun and Moon stand still when told ◆ v12. When God's not happy, no one's happy ◆ v13. God has one key objective – save His people ◆ v14. God will destroy the wicked as needed ◆ v15. Nothing will stand in His way, including seas • How much of our praying is about rejoicing in God compared to making requests for temporal things?
3:16-19	<p>Trust God Even When You Have Nothing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v16. Habakkuk highlights that he "<i>must wait quietly</i>" (patiently) for the worst to happen – enemy invasion • vv17-18. Here's a life-passage to take to heart... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ When you have lost your job (no fig tree) ◆ There is no paycheck coming (no fruit) ◆ The bank account is empty (no olive yield) ◆ The refrigerator is empty (no food in the fields) ◆ You drained your cash reserves (no flocks) ◆ Your investments are gone (no cattle in the stalls) ◆ "YET – I will exult and rejoice in God". That's Faith • v19. We must realize that no matter where God has us in life – whether we are at the top of our game or about to be beheaded, He is our strength, our joy, our comfort, and our Rock of Salvation

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Did Habakkuk's prayer work? Did God respond to his request? Did God repeat His mighty works in Habakkuk's day?
 - ◆ Looking back over historical time, it is very subjective if and how God answered the prayer of this praying prophet
 - ◆ Yes, the Jews were able to reestablished their culture, which prepared the way for Christ's entry into the world – BUT that was going to happen anyway – with or without praying
- In brief, will we trust God in the heat of battle and total despair? We must decide to do that BEFORE the battle hits us

NEXT WEEK: Haggai 1-2. Haggai is the first prophet that appears in the name of the Lord of hosts to awaken, reprove, direct, exhort, and encourage both the governor, the high priest, and the people as they reestablish their culture following the Babylonian captivity



"I'm gonna say my prayers. Do you need anything?"