

Bible Study 10-23-2024  
Rev. Debbie Sexton

## **"Trust Over Fear"** **KJV Habakkuk 2:1-5, 20**

**Habakkuk:** A prophet of God. His name means, "to wrestle" or "to embrace". In the first chapter he cries out about the violence, injustice, and wide-scale abandonment of God's law that resulted in the trampling of the Israelites by the wicked Chaldeans (Babylonians). Habakkuk was not comforted by God's answer. He wanted to know how a holy God could use such wicked people as His instrument of change? Habakkuk saw a dying world, and it broke his heart. With courage and confidence, he took his complaint to God. How do you handle your darkest hour of frustration or doubt? If God seems far away, or silent, open the Bible and hear Him speak directly to you through His prophets such as Habakkuk.

**1. *I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what He will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved.*** The language here is that of military defense. For surveillance purposes, ancient cities rely on watchmen stationed on elevated towers offering the best view of the distant horizon from which invading armies might approach. Chapter one ends with the prophet complaining that it seems beneath God to use a very unrighteous empire like Babylon to correct the Israelites. Habakkuk steps boldly to the throne of God and now he positions his heart for God's reproof. This message reminds us that God holds the blueprints of our lives and He expects us to watch for those plans to unfold. (Matthew 24:42; 25:13)

**2. *And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision (revelation), and make it plain upon tables, that he (a herald or courier) may run that readeth it.*** Runners or couriers in a military context do not bear weapons, but news. They move quickly from the battlefield to the homeland to provide status updates. The runners were a vital element for communication in the ancient world because they did not have wireless connections as we do today.

**3. For the vision (revelation) is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry (linger), wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.** This is a prophetic vision, a word from God. At God's discretion. At the right time and without delay. When it does come, it will be clear that God is keeping His word. Though it tarry, wait for it: This is often a challenging truth for God's people to accept. **(Romans 8:28)** We want results right now. However, God's Word to us is the same as to Habakkuk: "be patient and trust that God will act according to His divine will. God always works in the best interest of the greater good of His people. **KJV Isaiah 55:8, 11** *For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. 11 So shall My word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

**4a. Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: (NIV) See, the enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright: But the just shall live by his faith.** God distinguishes between two types of people, who represent two ways of living: The path of pride and the path of righteousness.

Pride: they strive to elevate themselves while abandoning God's justice. They are self-exalted. Faith: the opposite of prideful people are those who live by faith. Faith involves: a wide range of dispositions, including belief, trust and godly actions. Faith implies a steadfastness that demonstrates unwavering commitment over time, regardless of the external pressures. Steadfast faithfulness is the life to which God calls His people. We must patiently endure. (1 Corinthians 15:58)

**5. Yea also, because he transgresseth by wine, he is a proud man, neither keepeth at home, who enlargeth his desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people.**

**(NIV) indeed, wine betrays him; he is arrogant and never at rest. Because he is as greedy as the grave and like death is never satisfied, he gathers to himself all the nations and takes captive all the peoples.**

Habakkuk takes us back to a discussion of the nature of those who are proud: Not necessarily should we equate this truth with the misuse of alcohol. Prideful people are never satisfied. Their desires are as all-consuming as death itself seems to be. *Hell* may be translated as "grave" because the Jews of Habakkuk's day do not have as clear a view of the afterlife as we now possess with the full resources of the New Testament.

**Proverbs 27:20** reminds us that, "Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied." In the same way, the kings and kingdoms of this world want to conquer more and more, until all people belong to their dominion. Enough must become more. Big has to become enormous. The more the proud man takes, he becomes obsessed with expanding, building and dominating. Such kingdoms eventually overreach, spreading themselves too thin. This inevitably leads to their downfall. Pride is its own death sentence. KJV **Proverbs 16:18** *Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.*

**Note of encouragement:** KJV **Proverbs 16:1** *The preparations (the plans) of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the Lord.* Never leave God out of your decisions or plans. Keep Him first, walk in obedience and leave the results to Him.

**20. But the Lord is in His holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before Him.**

This assurance draws our attention to God's government; God is in charge. He is in control. Ask Him any question, but never question His authority for what He permits and allows on earth. KJV **Isaiah 61:1, Acts 7:49** *Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool: KJV Psalm 46:10 Be still and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.*  
Song: Mississippi Mass Choir "Put Your Trust in Jesus"