

1:1-4 Habakkuk 'YHWH, please do something re. injustice & violence in Judah?'	1:5-11 YHWH 'I'm going to send the Babylonians, with destructive power!'	1:12-2:1 Habakkuk 'YHWH, live forever! But isn't this more unjust? I wait eagerly for your reply'	2:2-20 YHWH 'Wait for me: I will destroy Babylon in the end for its evil!'	3:1-19 Habakkuk 'YHWH, I know you were awesome with the Exodus. I will humbly wait.'
--	---	--	---	---

Habakkuk 3 (ESVUK)

Sunday 12 July 2026

3 A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, according to Shigionoth.

2 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.

3 God came from Teman,
and the Holy One from Mount Paran.

His splendour covered the heavens,
and the earth was full of his praise. *Selah*

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

5 Before him went pestilence,
and plague followed at his heels.^a

6 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.

7 I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction;
the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble.

8 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?

9 You stripped the sheath from your bow,
calling for many arrows.^b *Selah*
You split the earth with rivers.

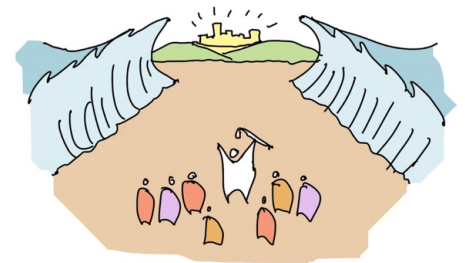
10 The mountains saw you and writhed;
the raging waters swept on;

1. [A prayer for YHWH to repeat his Exodus rescue \(3:1-2\)](#)

Recalling the past (3:1-2)

When you pray to YHWH about present injustice within God's people, how often do you recall what YHWH has done in the past?

2. [Habakkuk's dramatic retelling of YHWH's Exodus rescue \(3:3-15\)](#)



^a Hebrew *feet*

^b The meaning of the Hebrew line is uncertain



Andover
Bible
Church

Rating YHWH's power (3:3-15)

- Could you rate how powerful YHWH is here compared to other parts of the Bible you know?
- What does this passage show about YHWH's power that you might otherwise forget or underplay?
- How comfortable are you with YHWH being this powerful?

the deep gave forth its voice;
it lifted its hands on high.

¹¹ 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.

¹² You marched through the earth in fury;
you threshed the nations in anger.

¹³ 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.^c *Selah*

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ You trampled the sea with your horses,
the surging of mighty waters.

¹⁶ 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.

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^d instruments.

3. Habakkuk's reaction (3:16-19)

a. fear

b. waiting

a. fear

b. waiting



Defining 'Faith' (3:16-19)

How much does your view of faith
match this definition of faith: humbly
waiting for YHWH?



^c The meaning of the Hebrew line is uncertain

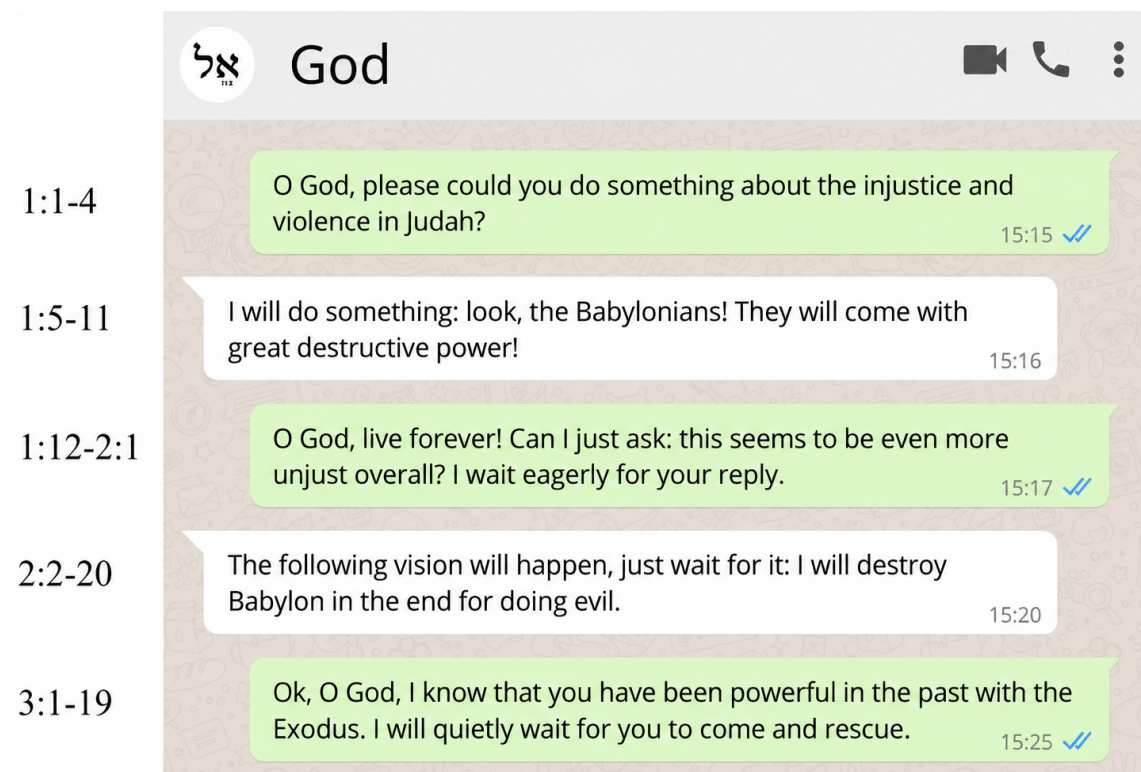
^d Hebrew *my stringed*

1. What is the book of Habakkuk about?

The book describes God's eventual solution to injustice within God's people, and a model believer's response to this

2. How does the book show this in its structure?

The book of Habakkuk is a conversation between God and Habakkuk:



3. Worldview diagnostic

When facing injustice within God's people, we often try to look forward to the new creation. Habakkuk 3 also teaches us to look back at YHWH's track record of doing powerful things in the past, and to find reassurance there.

To what extent do you look both backwards and forwards? Which comes more naturally to you, and why?

Getting back into the text

- 3:1-2
1. If Ch 3 is a model response, how would you summarise the function of Ch 1-2?
 2. In an alternative prayer, Habakkuk could have just asked for mercy; what difference does it make that he goes via the Exodus?
 3. What does the phrase “*your work, O LORD, do I fear*” suggest about Habakkuk’s response to YHWH’s past actions?
 4. What is the literary effect of the repeated phrase ‘*in the midst of the years*’?
 5. ‘*in wrath remember mercy*’ is a poetic compression; what would a more literal, fuller wording be?
- 3:3-15
6. What picture of YHWH is created by the horses, chariot, bow, arrows, spear, marching, crushing, piercing, and trampling imagery in 3:8-15?
 7. What might the significance of the locations Teman and Mount Paran be?
 8. What is the literary effect of combining YHWH’s presence (splendour) with the theme of creation (the heavens and the earth)?
 9. How do you imagine/visualise the description of YHWH in 3:4?
 10. We intuitively expect/demand that YHWH’s presence be associated with nice things. What is the literary effect of pestilence and plague?
 11. How does the theme of ‘*eternal*’ and ‘*everlasting*’ work in 3:6?
 12. How does 3:7 amplify the holiness of YHWH’s presence?
 13. What is the literary effect of describing YHWH’s judgement against Egypt using the imagery of rivers and sea in 3:8?
 14. Why might the ‘*deep*’ be described as ‘*lifted its hands on high*’?
 15. How does the author use the themes of standing still and speeding?
 16. What is the literary effect of moving from YHWH’s power over creation (i.e. rivers, sea, mountains, sun and moon) to YHWH marching through the earth and threshing the nations in 3:12?
 17. How does 3:13 reframe the terrifying warrior imagery of 3:8–15?
 18. If 3:8 makes clear that YHWH’s anger is not against the sea, what is the literary effect of picturing him trampling the sea in 3:15?
- 3:16-19
19. What is the literary effect of moving from God’s overwhelming power in 3:3–15 to Habakkuk’s physical trembling in 3:16?
 20. Why might Habakkuk tremble at the thought of YHWH’s coming, even though YHWH is coming to save?
 21. What is the effect of the word ‘*Yet*’ in 3:16?
 22. In 3:17, what is the effect of piling up so many images of total loss: fig tree, vines, olive, fields, flock, herd?
 23. Why is 3:18 surprising after 3:17?
 24. How does 3:19 connect with the weakness and trembling of 3:16?
 25. Habakkuk 3 is framed as a song. What does that suggest about how God’s people were meant to use this prayer?
 26. Look back at the WhatsApp summary for 3:1–19: “*Ok, O God, I know that you have been powerful in the past with the Exodus. I will quietly wait for you to come and rescue.*” After studying the chapter, how would you improve this final message?