

# The Bigger Story – Follow

## Week Twenty-One: Wait

### Notes & Discussion Questions on Habakkuk

- In Hebrew Habakkuk's name is "Chavakuk", which means "embraced by God"
- Outside of the book that bears his name, Habakkuk appears nowhere else in the Bible
- Habakkuk prophesied sometime just prior to the rise of the Babylonian Empire (600 BC)
- This book is not a challenge to a specific set of people but is a dialogue between himself and God, after questioning evil

Habakkuk 2:2: God told Habakkuk to record these "question and answers" for the benefit of others... *How can our trails help others? How can we be examples during difficult seasons?*

Many ask God questions: Moses (Exodus 5:22-23), Jeremiah (Jeremiah 12:1-2), the Psalmists (Psalm 10:1, 42:9, 44:24). *How have you asked questions? What can you learn by asking questions?*

Habakkuk 2:2-4: The Original/Historic Context is how to live in troubled times: Through actively trusting in God. Trusting God knows how to deal with the proud and is just and true (Psalm 62:12). This verse is quoted 3 times in the New Testament, each time the reference is to salvation and faith in Jesus.

1. Romans 1:17: A commentary on the justified man: "The just shall live by faith."
2. Hebrews 10:38: A commentary on faith: "The just shall live by faith."
3. Galatians 3:11: A commentary on the Christian life: "The just shall live by faith."

*How can we live in times of trouble and questions? Where is your watchpost? Are you looking out? Listening?* There will be hundreds of (seemingly) unanswered "why" questions. *What do you do with the "why" questions?* We can either focus on them, using our experience and emotions to dictate our worldview and response. Or we can focus on God, knowing He is good, even in times we don't understand. *How do we live and walk by faith?* (See: 2 Corinthians 5:7, Psalm 5:11, 18:2, 56:3, 91:2)

### Notes & Discussion Questions on Psalm 62

In many psalms, David began by telling his great need or describing his present crisis. Here, David began by declaring his great confidence in and trust upon God. He asks for nothing. While written in a time of trouble, there is no fear or despair. *Why? How can recognizing our salvation in God change our perspectives?*

Verse 2: "My rock and my salvation": God is David's strength and stability. He is a rock, firm and stable, but not unfeeling or insensitive to our feelings. We are to pour out our hearts to Him. *Discuss*. Despite the enemies and trouble (verses 3-4) David's confidence is in God alone (verse 5). He seems to be talking to his soul, reminding himself of trust in God, that God is trustworthy. *How can we remind ourselves of God's truth, love and presence in difficult times?*

Verse 8: After speaking truths to himself, David reminds other to trust God "O people!" He also (verses 9-10) told the people what *not* to trust in. *Discuss*.

Verses 11-12: Power belongs to God. We don't look for strength anywhere else, including ourselves. God is powerful but also rich in mercy and steadfast ("hesed") love. *What else do we learn about God? About ourselves?*

### Background Information on the Book of Acts

- Written by Luke, the only Gentile writer of the Bible, who also wrote the Gospel of Luke (wrote more words than Paul, Paul wrote more books/letters)
- Luke was a physician, and he became a traveling companion of Paul (Colossians 4:14)
- Written sometime around AD 60-69 (spans a period of about 30 years, to AD 60)
- Ideally this book could be called "Acts of Jesus through the Apostles" *How can you see Jesus throughout this book? What do you learn about the Holy Spirit?*

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*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16*

## This Week's Readings

2 Sam. 18-19	2 Sam 20-21 John 7	2 Sam. 22-23	2 Sam. 24 John 8	1 Kings 1-2	1 Kings 3-5 John 9
Mark 16-19-20, Habakkuk 2:1-3, Psalm 62, Acts 1:1-11, Luke 24:36-53					

### Notes & Discussion Questions on The Holy Spirit

Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, instructed the apostles regarding what to do in His absence, detailing how the Holy Spirit lives in, empowers and inspires man and is at work in those who do not yet believe. This sets the pattern for the rest of the book, showing how the Holy Spirit empowers the church (1:8). **Why do we need the Holy Spirit?**

- To be a bold witness, to resist sin and be further sanctified, to be vessels for God's miracles (2 Cor. 4:7)

In Acts 4-5, Jesus instructed His disciples not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Spirit. **Why were they instructed to wait? What does the waiting indicate? What do we learn about God in this? That the Spirit it is "Promise of the Father"? How have you handled times of waiting?**

- To wait means that it was worth waiting for
- To wait means that they had a promise it would come
- To wait means they must receive it; they couldn't create it themselves
- To wait means that they would be tested by waiting, at least a little

**Who is Holy Spirit?** The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity:

- One God, in Three Persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:26-27)
- The Holy Spirit has always existed and is co-equal and co-eternal with God. He is God (Genesis 1:2)
- The Holy Spirit is not an "it" or a "force," but He has all the attributes of personality: mind (1 Corinthians 2:11), will (1 Corinthians 12:11) emotion (Ephesians 4:30)

**What are the roles of Holy Spirit?**

- To be around us, near us, drawing us and leading us to Jesus. No one comes to Jesus without the Holy Spirit's influence (John 6:44, 1 Corinthians 12:3)
- The Holy Spirit indwells Believers (John 20:19-22) At the moment of conversion, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in the Believer (1 Corinthians 3:16, Romans 8:11)
- To give gifts (1 Cor. 12:8-10, Eph. 4:7-13, Rom. 12:3-8) and produce fruit in Believers (Galatians 5:22-23)

**How do you get the Holy Spirit and this power** ("dunamis" in the Greek, the English word "dynamite") (John 14:16-17)? **How do you get the baptism of the Holy Spirit?** (Luke 11:11-13). **What do we do with that power?**

## Empowered: Next Week's Readings

1 Kings 6-7 John 10	1 Kings 8	1 Kings 9 John 11	1 Kings 10-11	1 Kings 12-13 John 12	1 Kings 14-15
Jeremiah 10, Psalm 119:1-8, 1 Corinthians 2:8-16, 4:7-18, Acts 1:8, 2:1-21					

### Notes & Discussion Questions on The Ascension

Acts 1:9-11: Jesus ascends into heaven. (Luke 24:50) in a cloud of glory (the Shekinah) associated with the presence of God in the Old and New Testaments. **Why is the ascension important? What is He doing now?**

- To send the Holy Spirit (John 16:7) and to give gifts to men (Ephesians 4:8)
- To prepare a place for you (John 14:3)
- To make intercession for us (Romans 8:34) standing as our High Priest (Hebrews 7:25)
- To set the stage for His Second Coming (Acts 1:9-11)

Verse 11: "Will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven": Jesus will return just as He left.

- He left physically, visibly, from the Mount of Olives, in the presence of His disciples, blessing His church...and will return in a like manner.

**What did they do in response? What should we do?**

When we go out to do the work of God, Jesus will work with us and the Holy Spirit empowers us! Amen!