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**VIDEO LECTURE MODULE:**

**BIBLE FOR  
6TH GRADE STUDENTS**

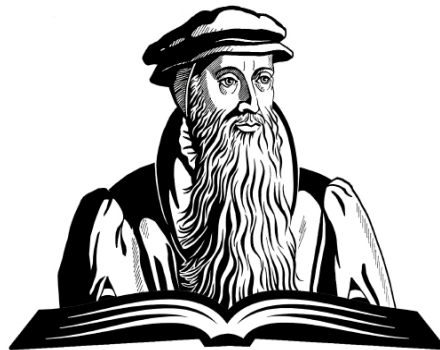
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**Old Testament**

**Lesson 108**

**Habakkuk's Questions, God's Replies**

Lecture Presenter: Dr. Daniel Sweetman



**The John Knox Institute**  
of Higher Education

*Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide*

**John Knox Institute of Higher Education**

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# Module

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## BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

### Old Testament

#### 113 LESSONS

*77 Lessons presented by Mr. Daniel Van Brugge*

*36 Lessons presented by Dr. Daniel Sweetman*

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|--|---|
| 01. The Bible: The Word of God             | 26. Joseph and His Brethren                     |
| 02. Creation: The Work of an Almighty God  | 27. Jacob Comes to Joseph                       |
| 03. Man: A Special Place in God's Creation | 28. God Heard Their Cry                         |
| 04. A Gracious Promise                     | 29. Moses and the Burning Bush                  |
| 05. Cain and Abel                          | 30. Let My People God                           |
| 06. Only Noah Found Grace                  | 31. Deliverance                                 |
| 07. The Coming Judgment –A Way of Escape   | 32. God's Patience with a Complaining People    |
| 08. The Noahic Covenant                    | 33. Keeping the Law: Not to Merit /Thankfulness |
| 09. The Tower of Babel                     | 34. The Lord Dwells Among His People            |
| 10. Abram: Called by God                   | 35. A Priest for the People                     |
| 11. Abram Intercedes for Lot               | 36. Moses Intercedes for a Rebellious People    |
| 12. Melchizadek                            | 37. Worshiping God Rightly                      |
| 13. Righteous by Faith                     | 38. Walk Not According to the World             |
| 14. Two Sons                               | 39. Hearts of Ingratitude                       |
| 15. Lessons from Lot's Life                | 40. Aaron's Rod Blossoming                      |
| 16. Faithless Abraham – Faithful God       | 41. The Serpent of Brass Lifted Up              |
| 17. Abraham Tested – God's Provision       | 42. Phinehas Turning Away God's Wrath           |
| 18. Isaac and Rebekah                      | 43. Cities of Refuge                            |
| 19. Jacob: A Better Desire than Esau       | 44. A New Generation                            |
| 20. Jacob the Deceiver                     | 45. Moses' Last Days                            |
| 21. God Preserves Jacob                    | 46. Joshua—God's Promise Fulfilled              |
| 22. Jacob Returns to Beth-el               | 47. A Promise to Rahab                          |
| 23. Joseph Loved – Joseph Hated            | 48. The Rise of Judges                          |
| 24. An Eye upon God                        | 49. Gideon—God with Him                         |
| 25. Joseph Raised Out of Prison            | 50. Samson                                      |

51. Ruth the Moabitess
52. Samuel Judges Israel
53. Israel's First King
54. The Kingdom Established
55. David Anointed the Next King
56. David Hunted by Saul
57. The Last Days of Saul
58. David, the Next King
59. Fetching the Ark
60. Thou Art the Man
61. David's Return to Jerusalem
62. Seven Sons of Saul Killed
63. Genealogies of Israel
64. David Appointed King
65. David's Kingdom Established
66. David Prepares for the Temple
67. David's Departing Instructions
68. Solomon Becomes King
69. Solomon Builds the House of God
70. The Kingdom is Rent
71. A Wicked Divided Kingdom
72. Ahab's Reign and Death
73. Elisha Begins his Work
74. Elisha's Voice is Heard
75. A Succession of Kings
76. Ahaz and Hezekiah
77. The Captivity of Judah
78. Introduction to the Prophets
79. Isaiah's Vision & Song
80. Isaiah Prophecies about Christ
81. The Prophet Jeremiah Called and Sent
82. Jeremiah Opposed and Comforted
83. Ezekiel, the Captive Prophet
84. Ezekiel's Comforting Visions
85. Daniel and His Three Friends
86. Nebuchadnezzar's Forgotten Dream
87. Three Friends in the Fiery Furnace
88. Nebuchadnezzar's Madness
89. The Writing on the Wall
90. Daniel in the Lions' Den
91. Daniel's Visions and Dreams
92. Ezra—Return from Captivity
93. Ezra—Rebuilding the Temple
94. Ezra—The Scribe
95. Nehemiah—Rebuilding the Walls
96. Nehemiah—The Task Completed
97. Esther the Queen
98. Esther—Haman's Plot
99. Esther—The Jews Saved
100. Hosea—The Minor Prophets
101. Joel and the Day of the LORD
102. Amos the Fearless Herdsman
103. Obadiah Prophecies Edom's Fall
104. Jonah's Flight
105. Jonah's Mission
106. Micah Preaches Judgment & Mercy
107. Nahum—A Message for Nineveh
- 108. Habakkuk's Questions, God's Replies**
109. Zephaniah—Threatenings & Promises
110. Haggai Urges Building the Temple
111. Zechariah—The Night Visions
112. Zechariah Prophecies of Christ
113. Malachi—Last Old Testament Prophet

## *Lesson 108*

# **Habakkuk's Questions, God's Replies**

Habakkuk, chapters 1 through 3

### **Memory Verse**

*"O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy."*

—Habakkuk 3:2

### **The Book of Habakkuk**

When we begin to read the book of Habakkuk, we quickly notice a difference from the preceding book of Nahum. In his prophecy, Nahum directly passes on the word of the Lord which he received. He is a messenger with a "burden" and a "vision" (Nahum 1:1). His own thoughts and feelings are not relevant. Habakkuk on the other hand has many burning questions about what he sees around him, and about God's message. We may read these questions, as well as God's replies.

Habakkuk prophesied during the time of the last five kings of Judah. We know from the books of Kings and Chronicles, and Jeremiah who prophesied around the same time, that this was a sad time for God's people. Sins such as idolatry, Sabbath breaking, and covetousness were being practiced more and more openly.

In his book, we discover that Habakkuk was a man with a tender conscience. Chapter 1 begins with Habakkuk crying out to the Lord about the sins and the injustice he saw all around him. Why did the Lord not intervene? It seemed that his inaction was emboldening sinners to go from bad to worse! "Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth" (Habakkuk 1:4).

### **God's Reply**

In chapter 1, verses 5 to 11, we read God's reply to Habakkuk. God would surely punish sin, also the sins of his covenant people. The Lord told Habakkuk that he would "raise up the Chaldeans" (verse 6) to bring great destruction upon Judah. In 2 Peter 3:9–10, we read that God is long-suffering, "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come." This day would be a dreadful one for the people of Judah who were blissfully living in false security.

When hearing this alarming news, Habakkuk's tender heart trembled again, this time for his people. The Chaldeans were idol worshipers, wicked, and cruel. They would show no mercy. They would overrun and destroy the nation of Judah, the city of Jerusalem, and the temple of the Lord.

Would anyone survive? Was the Lord going to punish violence with more violence? Would the wickedness of Judah be punished by a nation even more wicked? Again Habakkuk turned to the Lord, wondering why God made man “as the fishes of the sea” (verse 14).

## Chapter 2

“I will stand up on my watch, and set me up on the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me,” Habakkuk says in chapter 2, verse 1, as he anxiously awaited God’s reply. In the rest of chapter 2, we read God’s answer to Habakkuk. First, God says that justice shall be done, not in Habakkuk’s timing, but in the Lord’s timing (verse 3). Then God tells Habakkuk that he must live by faith (verse 4). He must trust the Lord to work out all things for good to them that love God (Romans 8:28). In the rest of the chapter, God describes how the Chaldeans shall also be judged for their sins. “Because thou hast spoiled many nations, all the remnant of the people shall spoil thee; because of man’s blood” (Habakkuk 2:8).

## Chapter 3

God showed Habakkuk a glimpse of his awesome power over his creation and over his creatures. In response, Habakkuk bowed his head and stammered, “In wrath remember mercy” (verse 2). Habakkuk confessed that he was overwhelmed by this vision of God’s majesty. “When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice” (verse 16). But then Habakkuk suddenly felt so much of God’s love and favour that he concluded the book with a joyful shout of praise. His heart was filled with trust and faith in the God of his salvation, and his mouth was filled with praise (verses 17–19). He no longer needed to understand everything. One thing he knew: no matter how bad things would become, God would be his strength and joy. “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?” Paul cried out (Romans 8:35). Happy Habakkuk! May you too find this joy!

## Review Questions

### Chapter 1 and 2: TRUE or FALSE

1. Habakkuk tells us where he was born, and whose son he is. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Habakkuk prophesied at the same time as Nahum \_\_\_\_\_
3. In verse three, Habakkuk complains about seeing six things. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The Lord would raise up the Assyrians to march through the land. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The enemy’s horses are compared to leopards, wolves and eagles. \_\_\_\_\_
6. God cannot behold evil and look upon iniquity. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The Chaldeans used angles, nets and drags to catch fish. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Habakkuk will stand upon the tower to watch for the enemies. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Chapter 2:4 says that the just shall live by his works. \_\_\_\_\_

### Search the Scriptures

1. Write down the five woes described in chapter 2. The first one is in verse 6.

Woe to him \_\_\_\_\_

Woe to him \_\_\_\_\_

Woe to him \_\_\_\_\_

Woe unto him \_\_\_\_\_

Woe unto him \_\_\_\_\_

2. What wonderful promise do we read in Habakkuk 2:14?

*“For the \_\_\_\_\_ shall be \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of  
the \_\_\_\_\_, as the \_\_\_\_\_ cover the \_\_\_\_\_.”*

### **Discussion Questions**

1. When people have questions about what is happening in the world around them, what are some places they go for answers? What is the best place to go? Have you ever had your questions answered there?

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2. In chapter 3:2, Habakkuk says, “O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid.” Should we fear God? If so, what kind of fear should we have toward God? What kind of fear should we not have?

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3. For a long time, the monk Martin Luther tried to make himself righteous before a just and holy God. He did everything the Roman Catholic Church prescribed, and more. He was very troubled, until he read Romans 1:17, where Paul quotes Habakkuk 2:4, “The just shall live by faith.” Suddenly it was as if the gates of heaven swung open, and Luther walked through them into paradise. From that moment on, Luther was a new man. What did Luther suddenly understand, when he read this verse?

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4. Paul quotes “the just shall live by faith” in Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, and Hebrews 10:38. Why do you think this was one of Paul’s favourite texts?

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