

Habakkuk 2:1-5

Might you be the answer to the prophet’s complaint?

New Revised Standard Version	Complete Jewish Bible	Names of God Bible
<p>¹ I will stand at my watchpost, and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me, and what he will answer concerning my complaint.</p>	<p>¹ I will stand at my watchpost; I will station myself on the rampart. I will look to see what [God] will say through me and what I will answer when I am reproved.</p>	<p>¹ I will stand at my guard post. I will station myself on the wall. I will watch to see what he will say to me and what answer I will get to my complaint.</p>
<p>² Then the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. ³ For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay.</p>	<p>² Then Adonai answered me; he said, “Write down the vision clearly on tablets, so that even a runner can read it. ³ For the vision is meant for its appointed time; it speaks of the end, and it does not lie. It may take a while, but wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay.</p>	<p>² Then Yahweh answered me, “Write the vision. Make it clear on tablets so that anyone can read it quickly. ³ The vision will still happen at the appointed time. It hurries toward its goal. It won’t be a lie. If it’s delayed, wait for it. It will certainly happen. It won’t be late.</p>
<p>⁴ Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith. ⁵ Moreover, wealth is treacherous; the arrogant do not endure. They open their throats wide as Sheol; like Death they never have enough. They gather all nations for themselves, and collect all peoples as their own.</p>	<p>⁴ “Look at the proud: he is inwardly not upright; but the righteous will attain life through trusting faithfulness. ⁵ Truly, wine is treacherous; the arrogant will not live at peace but keeps expanding his desires like Sh’ol; like death, he can never be satisfied; he keeps collecting all the nations for himself, rallying to himself all the peoples.</p>	<p>⁴ “Look at the proud person. He is not right in himself. But the righteous person will live because of his faithfulness. ⁵ Also because wine is treacherous he is arrogant and never rests. He has a large appetite like the grave. He is like death – never satisfied. He gathers all the nations to himself. He collects all the people to himself.</p>

Habakkuk’s Complaint (found in chapter 1): (adapted from <https://bible.org/seriespage/8-habakkuk>)

Have you ever finished watching the evening news with all the violence and injustice in the world and in frustration asked, “Why isn’t God doing something? Why do the wicked and the dishonest people prosper?” This is not a new feeling. Habakkuk felt that way around 620 B.C. Habakkuk’s name

Habakkuk 2:1-5

Might you be the answer to the prophet's complaint?

means to “embrace” or “wrestle.” And he was wrestling with a difficult issue. If God is good, then why is there evil in the world? And why do the evil prosper? What is God doing in the world? Habakkuk is outraged at the violence and injustice in his society. He lists six problems: sin, wickedness, destruction, violence, judicial injustice, and overwhelming wickedness in society. In chapter 1, Habakkuk raises some good questions. Why does evil go unpunished? Why do the wicked prosper? Why doesn't God do something? God appears to be indifferent and inactive. But God is doing something: raising up the Babylonians to come and destroy Judah. What is Habakkuk's response to this answer? He accepts it, but he doesn't like it. Habakkuk has received one answer, and he had more questions. Chapter 2 says he is going to expectantly wait for another answer from God. He is searching for understanding.

1. Verse 1: What do the words “watchpost” and “rampart” bring to your mind? Why does Habakkuk use these words?
2. What is Habakkuk waiting for? Given the background information about his complaint in chapter 1, what does this verse reveal about his personality and faith?
3. Verses 2-3: What does God tell Habakkuk to do? Why?
4. What is “the appointed time”?
5. God says the vision “does not lie”. Why does this have to be said?
6. How does God address the tendency for humans to be impatient?
7. Do you think the words of verse 3 are aimed at Habakkuk or at the reader? In what ways might they be aimed at both audiences? To which audience do you belong (the prophet, the reader, or both)?
8. Verses 4-5: What is the first group God speaks of? What is the problem with these people?
9. Consider the following (adapted from <http://internetbiblecollege.net/lessons/hebrew%20words%20for%20faith.htm>):
The word “faith” in Habakkuk 2:4 is the Hebrew word “emunah”. The basic meaning of emunah carries the sense of certainty, trust, and faithfulness. The verse contrasts the proud, self-reliant attitudes of the unrighteous ancient pagan Chaldeans against those who have trusting reliant faith in God in their hearts which manifests in the fruit of faithfulness to Him in their daily living.
Who are this group of people contrasted against? What is the basis of this contrast?
10. What is the second group God speak of? What is the relationship of “wealth” to “the arrogant”? How do they go hand in hand?
11. What imagery is used to describe the behaviors of this group? Can you think of sample actions and behaviors that demonstrate this imagery?
12. How are the two groups in verses 4 and 5 seen in our society today?
13. The Hebrew word “emunah” in verse 4 combines the often intangible concept of faith with the real-life behaviors of faithfulness. How can people of faith be the answer to Habakkuk's complaint summarized in the background information about chapter 1 as it applies to our society today?