

# How To Handle What Life Throws at You

## The Book of Habakkuk

The common lot of life is problems. Paul stated it realistically in 1 Corinthians 10:13 “There has no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

Your problem might be cancer. Someone else’s problem may be cut hours or a lay off. Last year your problem may have been marital. This year it might be you teenager.

We have a choice to make. The first option is

### **1. Focus on the Problem and Worry. This is what Habakkuk did in chapters one and two.**

**A. He focuses on the problem and complains to God in 1:1-4:** God you are inactive in my circumstance. You are not dealing with the sin of my fellow countrymen. God answers him in 1:5-11. I am raising up the Babylonians to punish the sin in Judah.

**B. He focuses again on the problem and complains to God the second time in 1:12-17:** God you are inconsistent. You are using a more wicked people, the Babylonians, to judge a less wicked people, God’s people. God answers the second time in 2:1-20.

1) In the future I will judge the wicked Babylonians when I have finished using them to judge my sinning people (2:6-19).

2) In the future I will also bless my people (2:14).

a. Therefore in the mean time trust me with your circumstances (2:4).

b. And stop complaining (2:20).

### **2. Focus on God and Worship. This is what Habakkuk does in chapter three.**

Chapter three is a song/psalm. We know this for three reasons.

1) The term Shigionoth in verse one was also used in Psalm 7.

2) The musical term “Selah” is used three times in Habakkuk three.

3) At the end of chapter three Habakkuk gave this psalm “to the chief singer on my stringed instruments” in the Temple to be accompanied by music. Habakkuk is worshiping God in chapter three. Habakkuk has progressed from worrying about his problems to worshiping God in his problems.

**A. We Worship the God Who Comes (3:3a).** Moses used similar terminology in Dt. 33:2 to describe God coming to Mt. Sinai. God has specially intervened in history.

1. God came to us in Christ (John 1:1, 14)

2. God will come again at the return of Christ (John 14:3)

3. God has come to you and me and indwelt us (John 14:23)

**B. We Worship the God Who is Glorious (3:3b-4a).**

1. "Glory" is the outward manifestation of God's presence. In the O. T. that was the Shekinah glory.
2. The incarnate Christ was the outward manifestation of God or the glory of God (John 1:14; 2:11).
3. Today God's outward manifestation is seen in the believer who is being conformed into the image of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18).

**C. We Worship the God Who is Powerful (3:4b-5).**

1. Sometimes He hides his power. This was Habakkuk's dilemma in chapter 1. Habakkuk did not realize that God was already exercising His power behind the scenes.
2. God demonstrated His power openly with the 10 plagues on Egypt which Habakkuk is referring to in verse 5.
3. In both cases, God is powerful (Ephesians 3:20-21).

**D. We Worship the God Who is Victorious (3:6-7).**

1. God defeated 30 some nations according to Joshua.
  - a) Habakkuk 3:10 is an example (Crossing Jordan River)
  - b) Habakkuk 3:11 is an example (The standing still of the sun)
  - c) Habakkuk 3:12 is the reference to God marching through Canaan. According to 1:6 Babylon is marching. In 3:12 God is marching. These armies will clash. Who will win?
2. What God did with Canaan, He will do with Babylon (3:13, 14). Habakkuk writes by faith (Psalm 137).
3. In the future God will defeat the nations (2 Thessalonians 1:5-9).
4. Habakkuk concludes with the Rea Sea victory (3:15) in Exodus 14. When Israel saw God's power in parting the waters of the Red Sea and piling them up on both sides, they "feared the LORD, and believed the Lord." God wants us realize Who He is and worship His presence with us, His holiness, His glory, His power and experience by faith His victory.
5. For you and me "This is the victory that overcomes the world even our faith" (1 John 5:4; 2 Cor 10:3-4).

Conclusion: Habakkuk has reflected on places where God did great miracles in the life of God's people: Crossing the Rea Sea, 10 Plagues of Egypt, Mt Sinai, and Conquering Canaan. Do you have certain places where you have worshiped God's presence, holiness, glory and power?