

PRAISE THROUGH ADVERSITY

God’s character is permanent, our adversity is seasonal, but His praise is eternal.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ A “shigionoth” is a wild, emotional, musical prayer, which is the tone that Habakkuk’s prayer takes. To better appreciate the reason why, it helps to consider Habakkuk’s context.
- ❖ The timing is somewhere between the fall of Nineveh, the kingdom that destroyed the northern kingdom of Israel, and the coming Babylonian siege of Jerusalem in the southern kingdom of Judah.
- ❖ Unlike most prophets who spoke for God to the people, Habakkuk speaks to God on behalf of a people facing systemic injustice, moral decay, and the looming Babylonian threat.
- ❖ His book reads like a dialogue — a raw intellectual and spiritual wrestling match regarding the problem of evil.
- ❖ In chapter 1, Habakkuk questions God about the corruption within Judah and asks why the Lord remains silent in the face of injustice.
- ❖ God responds that He is raising up the Babylonians to punish Judah. That answer creates a secondary crisis: how can a holy God use a more wicked nation to punish a less wicked one?
- ❖ In chapter 2, Habakkuk commits to stand at his watch and wait for God’s answer. God gives the principle that “the righteous shall live by his faith” (Hab. 2:4), assuring him that while evil may prosper temporarily, it is inherently self-destructive.
- ❖ Then Habakkuk breaks out into a shigionoth, a wild, emotional praise, recalling God’s past deeds to fuel his present trust.

God’s character is permanent; we change but He doesn’t.

- ❖ Habakkuk recalls moments in Israel’s history when God moved and nature itself responded. Rivers parted, mountains trembled, and even the sun and moon stood still (Hab. 3:8-11). When the Lord led Israel from Egypt to the Promised Land, the Red Sea and the Jordan River stood aside as God passed by on His mission. The waters were not angry; they simply knew to retreat.
- ❖ The prophet also remembers how God subdued nations and defeated kings along Israel’s journey (Hab. 3:12-15). For all their boasting, human powers are no match for God on His mission.
- ❖ Habakkuk’s praise reminds us that God’s character is permanent. People change depending on their mood, situation, and pressure. But the Word of God remains the same yesterday, today, and forever. If we rely only on feelings, it becomes difficult to accomplish important things.
- ❖ When we anchor ourselves to the unchanging character of God, we gain stability. Praise begins by remembering who God has always been.

Our adversity is seasonal; our focus is destiny, not delay.

- ❖ Habakkuk does not deny the reality of hardship. “My heart pounded, my lips quivered...decay crept into my bones” (v.16). He understands that adversity is coming.
- ❖ The prophet describes what that season may look like: no figs on the trees, no grapes on the vines, no olives in the harvest, and no livestock in the stalls (v.17).
- ❖ It would be a difficult season, with no denying the depth of the

KEY SCRIPTURE: Habakkuk 3:1-19

(all scripture in NIV unless otherwise noted)

adversity. Yet he declares something remarkable: “Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior” (v.18).

- ❖ That word “yet” acknowledges the hardship but refuses to allow it to define the final outcome. Habakkuk understands that adversity may be severe, but it will not be permanent.
- ❖ Even when God allows hardship, it is never without purpose.
- ❖ Scripture reminds us in 1 Corinthians 10 that God will never allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear, and that He provides a way for us to endure (v.13).
- ❖ When adversity comes, guarding our hearts and surrounding ourselves with faithful voices helps keep our focus on the light ahead rather than the darkness in front of us.

God’s praise is eternal; it moves us from mortal to immortal.

- ❖ Habakkuk begins his prayer by declaring, “Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds...in wrath remember mercy” (Hab. 3:2). The prophet remembers the mighty works of God across generations.
- ❖ He recalls God’s glory filling the heavens, the pillar of fire guiding Israel, and the plagues that struck Egypt (Hab. 3:3-5). He remembers how nations trembled as God led His people through the wilderness (v.v. 6-7).
- ❖ Habakkuk is reminding himself of what God has already done. By recalling God’s past faithfulness, he strengthens his trust for the future.
- ❖ The chapter closes with a powerful declaration: “The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights” (v.19).
- ❖ Praise does not remove the mountain, but it gives us the footing to climb it. Habakkuk shows us that praise is not reserved for comfortable seasons. It is the declaration of confidence in the unchanging character of God.
- ❖ God’s character is permanent. Our adversity is seasonal. His praise is eternal. And when we praise Him, we rise above the circumstances that once threatened to overwhelm us.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. “God’s character is permanent, our adversity is seasonal, but His praise is eternal.” What does Habakkuk 3:1-19 teach about trusting God in hardship?
2. Habakkuk chose to rejoice in God even while expecting adversity (Hab. 3:17-18). What does this teach us about faith rooted in God’s character rather than circumstances?

PRAYER TIME

God of our salvation, strengthen our faith in every trial. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

- ✓ (Reminds me/Confirms)
- 💡 (New idea)
- 🗨️ (Think about)
- 👉 (Do this)
- ❤️ (Speaks to my heart)
- ➡️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Start-up: What small thing can instantly lift your mood on a difficult day (i.e., an enthusiastic greeting, a small treat, etc.)?

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

PRAYER FOCUS: F. S. Outreach: Life Groups, personal witnessing, lifestyle evangelism, community work.

24-hour Prayer: Daily;

Daily Devotions: Monday - Friday @ 6:30 a.m. & 9:00 p.m.;

Departmental Prayer: Every **Thursday** (please check schedule)

Corporate Prayer: Every **Friday @ 7:00 p.m.** (and in person every second Friday @ 9:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m.).

Zoom ID: 898 3191 5909 **Phone Access:** 647-374-4685

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FS PRAYER HOSTS AND LEADERS' MEETING

There will be a training/information session for all Prayer Leads/Hosts, Co-Hosts, and all who are involved in 24-hour prayer. Meeting access is through the "Departmental Meetings" option on the FS website.

Date: Sunday, March 8th, 2025

Time: 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Contact: Bro. Mike Allen

COUPLES' PRAYER BRUNCH

Couples are warmly invited to join us for a sweet time of fellowship, connection, and prayer. Come and be refreshed, encouraged, and strengthened together!

Registration deadline: Saturday, April 11th, 2026.

Date: Saturday, April 18th, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

To register, contact Bob and Kim at

stayconnectedmsq@gmail.com.



FAITH SANCTUARY WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service @ 11:00 a.m.

(Listen via phone: 1-844-268-4848)

Monday Berean Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m.

(Zoom, Facebook, YouTube)

Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.

(In person and via Zoom)

Friday Evening Service @ 8:00 p.m.

(In person and via Zoom)

Life Group Meetings – individually scheduled

(see ushers for information)

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

MARCH 8, 2026

Faith **SANCTUARY**

Feed Canada to Feed the World

Reaching the World Through Prayer

~ 2026 ~

Pastor:
Rev. Adrian W. Peel

*"Though the fig tree does not bud
and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails and the
fields produce no food, though there
are no sheep in the pen and no cattle
in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in
the Lord, I will be joyful in
God my Savior."*

Habakkuk 3:17-18 (NIV)

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