



**Week Two: Habakkuk 1:12-2:4**

“Watching and Waiting”

Study Guide for the week of

August 15, 2021

**Study Habakkuk 1:12-2:4.** Some questions to answer and discuss:

1. Why was the prophet perplexed and bewildered? ([1:12-17](#))
2. What did the prophet do in anticipation of God’s response? ([2:1](#))
3. What did God tell Habakkuk to do? ([2:2](#))
4. When have you been perplexed about why God allowed something to happen?
5. How willing am I to wrestle with the Lord when I don’t understand?
6. Where does my perspective on my current situation need to change?
7. How can faith in Jesus help me to wait on the Lord with patience and hope?

**Life Application Bible Notes**

[1:13](#) Judah's forthcoming punishment would be at the hands of the Babylonians. Habakkuk was appalled that God would use a nation even more wicked than Judah to punish it. But the Babylonians did not know they were being used by God to help Judah return to him, and Babylon's pride in its victories would be its downfall. Evil is self-destructive, and it is never beyond God's control. God may use whatever unusual instrument he chooses to correct or punish us. When we deserve punishment or correction, how can we complain about the kind of discipline God uses on us?

[2:1](#) The watchman and watchtower, often used by the prophets to show an attitude of expectation ([Isaiah 21:8, 11](#); [Jeremiah 6:17](#); [Ezekiel 3:17](#)), are pictures of Habakkuk's attitude of patient waiting and watching for God's response. Stone watchtowers were built on city walls or ramparts so that watchmen could see people (enemies or messengers) approaching their city while still at a distance. Watchtowers were also erected in vineyards to help guard the ripening grapes ([Isaiah 5:2](#)). Habakkuk wanted to be in the best position to receive God's message.

[2:2ff](#) This chapter records God's answers to Habakkuk's questions: (1) How long would evil prevail ([1:2, 3](#))? (2) Why was Babylon chosen to punish Judah ([1:13](#))? God said that the judgment, though slow to come, was certain. Although God used Babylon against Judah, he knew Babylon's sins and would punish it in due time.

[2:3](#) Evil and injustice seem to have the upper hand in the world. Like Habakkuk, Christians often feel angry and discouraged as they see what goes on. Habakkuk complained vigorously to God about the situation. God's answer to Habakkuk is the same answer he would give us, "If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place." It isn't easy to be patient, but it helps to remember that God hates sin even more than we do. Punishment of sin will certainly come. As God told Habakkuk, "Wait patiently." We must trust God even when we don't understand why events occur as they do.