

Study Hints for Thinking Further

International Bible Lessons

Habakkuk 2:1-5; 3:17-19

Sunday, October 5, 2014

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be the answers to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. Why do you think God wanted Habakkuk to write and make plain the vision He gave him?

Because of the vision’s importance and the people’s need to have God’s revelation clearly revealed and explained to them. God also wanted His Word readable by people in a hurry. They needed this vision both before and after the fall of Jerusalem, and would need it at other times during their history as God’s people. The NASB reads: “Then the LORD answered me and said, ‘Record the vision And inscribe *it* on tablets, That the one who reads it may run’” (Habakkuk 2:2). The NASB translation may indicate that God wanted believers to take His warnings seriously and flee quickly from the coming danger and judgment upon the rebellious, idolaters, and unbelievers.

2. When did God say the vision would be fulfilled?

God did not give a specific time, but once the end came the vision would be fulfilled without delay. The vision could have referred to the fall of Jerusalem in 587 BC. The vision could also be applied to the time before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

3. What can be the personal experience of someone who is wealthy who is also proud and arrogant?

His wealth can become a trap that can lead him to never being satisfied but always wanting more of something that cannot bring any lasting satisfaction. His desire for more and more can lead him to try to conquer and in some sense enslave others for the wealth they can provide him. The king of Babylon probably felt this way as well as the religious and political leaders of Judah (the king, the nobles, the high priest, and the other priests). The proud and arrogant may think they are better than others and deceive themselves into thinking that what they are doing is right and their wealth is an indication that God highly favors them and is blessing them above all others. Such deceptive thinking can inhibit them from repenting of their sins.

4. How does a righteous person live? Describe what that means to you.

He lives by faith. Some live by faith in their wealth and their spirit is not right. The righteous live by faith in the true God who has revealed himself in the Bible and most especially in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ. He humbly trusts and follows God because he believes God will always do what is best and right; loving, just, and merciful. A righteous person does not live exclusively by faith in himself; he lives supremely by faith in God and God's loving faithfulness; God's grace gives him the confidence each day to trust in Him.

5. What did Habakkuk say he would do if he became poor and totally unable to find food to eat because life had gotten so bad where he was?

He would still rejoice in the LORD and exult in God who was his salvation in every situation no matter how bleak. He trusted that the LORD would give him the strength he needed and make his life better – if not in this life, then in the next life. Just as Job knew, he knew that his Redeemer lived and he praised and thanked God for being his God.

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