



Gaines Chapel

AMEC
Grounded, Growing and Glorifying God

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Bible Study

January 24, 2023

A STUDY OF PRAYER

BACKGROUND: HABAKKUK 3:1-19

LESSON 2

Part II: The Woes

Habakkuk's woes are not unlike those of the other prophets who denounce the various kinds of tyranny (2:6-20):

- A. Plunder
- B. Becoming rich and famous by unjust means
- C. Building town with blood
- D. Degrading one's neighbor
- E. Idol worship

This part ends by declaring the sovereignty of the Lord.

Part III: The Prayer

This is a psalm. It is a hymn that extols the Lord's triumph over His people and their foes.

This book influenced the Apostle Paul and Habakkuk 2:4 became a central theme of his theology, and even influenced Martin Luther, leading to the Protestant Reformation, one of history's greatest religious upheavals.

PRAYER

- Involves the dialogue between God and people, especially his covenant partners.
- Dialogue: conversation, discussion, chat, talk, discourse, negotiation
- Pervasive throughout the bible.

Old Testament:

- Israel is a nation born of prayer.
 - Abraham heard God's call – Genesis 12:1-3
 - God heard the cries of the Hebrew children – Exodus 3:7
 - Moses conversed with God – Exodus 3:1-4:17
 - Moses interceded for Israel – Exodus 32:11-12; Numbers 11:11-15
 - Joshua via prayer discerned sin in the conquest community – Josh. 7:6-9; but was tricked when he did not discern God's opinion by prayer – Joshua 9.

Bible Study: A Study of Prayer

- God spoke to the Judges to deliver His people when the people called out to Him for deliverance.
- David's spiritual acumen seen in prayers of confession – 2 Sam 2:13; Psalm 51
- Solomon fulfilled the promises made to David after praying for wisdom – 1 Kings 3:5-9 and dedicated Temple in prayer – 1 Kings 8
- God worked miracles through the prayers of Elijah and Elisha (1 Kings 17:19-22: 18:20-40)

Lessons from prayer about praying

What we learn by studying Old Testament Prayers

- The writing prophets noted that genuine prayer calls for accompanying moral and social accountability. (Hosea 7:14; Amos 4:4-5)
- Isaiah's call reflected the intense cleansing and commitment involved in prayer (Isaiah 6)
- Jeremiah's dialogue and intercession frequently voiced reservation and frustration (Jeremiah 1; 20:7-18), teaching honesty in prayer.
- The Psalms teach variety and honesty in prayer are permissible:
 - proclaim praise
 - ask pardon
 - seek communion (Psalm 63)
 - protection (Psalm 57)
 - vindication (Psalm 107)
 - healing (Psalm 6)
- Daily patterned prayer became important to Exiles denied access to the Temple (Dan. 6:10)

Patterns of Prayer

ACTS

- Adoration (Hallowing His Name)
- Confession (Asking forgiveness)
- Thanksgiving (Expressing gratitude)
- Supplication (Presenting petitions)

Review Questions

- A. What does Habakkuk's name mean?
- B. What were the two questions that Habakkuk asked God?
- C. How did he feel about the Lord's response to the first question?
- D. What are your thoughts about God's response to him in Habakkuk 2:4?
- E. What are the five woes that burdened Habakkuk?
- F. Read Habakkuk's prayer in chapter 3.
 - a. What are some of his concerns?
 - b. How does he reconcile his issues?
 - c. How does his prayer speak to your head or your heart?
- G. Who were the two prominent figures greatly inspired by the book of Habakkuk?
- H. How did the impact of this book become evident in the life or in the life of the church?
 - I. What is prayer?

Sources: Holman Bible Dictionary