



PROVEN

In 2020, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers took a big risk—they signed a 42 year old quarterback to 2-year, \$50 million deal. Fortunately for the Bucs, the QB they signed was Tom Brady. Brady was already a first-ballot Hall of Fame QB (that probably could have been inducted while still playing), but could he win with another coach, another team, and in his 21st season in the league?

Despite the Bucs having only one winning season in the last 10 years, Brady took them all the way to a Super Bowl win. Brady already had as many Super Bowl victories as any team in the NFL—his win with the Bucs gave him a seventh title, *more than any NFL team!*

Brady's track record merited well-deserved praise. He cemented his legacy as the GOAT in Tampa Bay. To an infinitely greater degree, God's track record and performance warrants full confidence. God will keep his promises!

HABAKKUK 3:1–3, 16–19

¹ A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, according to Shigionoth.

² O LORD, I have heard the report of you, and your work, O LORD, do I fear. In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy. ³ God came from Teman, and the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah His splendor covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise.

¹⁶ I hear, and my body trembles; my lips quiver at the sound; rottenness enters into my bones; my legs tremble beneath me. Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble to come upon people who invade us.

¹⁷ Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, ¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

¹⁹ GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

In the valley of the shadow, I got a feeling it's the season that'll make me grow. I'm still breathing, I got praise in my lungs, And a choir in my soul.

The Apostle Paul states that believers "rejoice in our sufferings" (Romans 5:3). Scan the QR code to worship and be reminded of the God who is worthy of our praise, even in the midst of sorrow.



DISCUSSION

How has your perspective on God's character been challenged through this study?

ICEBREAKER

1. What does Habakkuk acknowledge and how does he respond? (2a)

2. What physical symptoms of deep concern does Habakkuk describe? (16a)

OBSERVATION

3. What choice does he repeat in this song? (18)

4. In what ways should the consequences of sin cause the same fear and physical symptoms that Habakkuk faced?

INTERPRETATION

5. What does it look like for you to "rejoice in the Lord," despite the circumstances of life? (What possible circumstances might challenge that attitude?)

APPLICATION

God's past faithfulness is a pattern and promise for his future faithfulness. He has proven himself trustworthy. If you need encouragement, talk to your coach today.



WEEK 9

AN
ATHLETE
STUDY

STUDY NOTES

I KNOW THIS TUNE

Have you ever heard a song, and someone says, “I love this song.” And you think, “I’ve never heard this before in my life.” Then, when the chorus drops, it hits you, “I know this tune!”

Well, it seems that something similar happened to Habakkuk. In chapter 1, Habakkuk cried out to the Lord to judge the wicked. The Lord responded that he had plans already in motion. Habakkuk realized the untold suffering coming upon Israel and it seemed unfair. The Lord promised to use Babylon as his divine swift agent of judgment. Habakkuk boldly challenged God’s plans. Last Week, we looked at God’s response to Habakkuk’s challenge—God was going to use Babylon, but they would only prosper so long as they were useful. Once their usefulness ended, they would reap the destruction they sowed.

As God proclaimed “woe” after “woe” upon Babylon, it’s like Habakkuk heard the chorus to a familiar song. All of a sudden, this random event found a greater context. All of these things God promised, as bad as it will get, had been promised centuries before through Moses. In fact, Habakkuk seems to have realized Babylon is “*the nation*” God was using to fulfill everything promised in Deuteronomy 28!

He realized that God will use this nation, but hope exists in Deuteronomy 30. God still had a plan for Israel. And, Deuteronomy 30:7 says that “*the LORD your God will put all these curses on your foes and enemies who persecuted you.*” All of the “Woes” mentioned will also fulfill God’s words through Moses!

HOPE LIVES FOR THOSE WHO PRAISE

After coming to the realization that hope exists, a *prayer* overflowed from **Habakkuk**. Notice though that Habakkuk’s acceptance doesn’t mean he’s excited; “*O LORD, I have heard the report of you, and your work, O LORD, do I fear. In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy.*”

Habakkuk’s call for mercy isn’t based on his or Israel’s merit. It comes solely based on God’s promise. Verse 3 and following represent figures of speech and allusion to God’s deliverance in Israel’s past. We don’t have space to cover all of them, but verse 3 takes everything back to God’s giving of the Law of Moses.

Habakkuk wrote that **God came from Teman, and the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah His splendor covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise.** This verse connects strongly to Deuteronomy 33:2, “*The Lord came from Sinai and dawned from Seir (aka Teman) upon us; he shone forth from Mount Paran.*” Although the location of Mt Sinai is debated, it seems probable that God gave the Law very far south of the Promised Land. Then, Israel had to travel north to the Promised Land passing between two mountainous regions on their right and left—Mt Seir and Mt Paran.

After the reminder of all that God had done, Habakkuk trusted in God’s faithfulness. However, that doesn’t mean that he wasn’t afraid of the coming judgment. Vividly, Habakkuk confessed, “*I hear, and my body trembles; my lips quiver at the sound; rottenness enters into my bones; my legs tremble beneath me.*” But he confidently stated, “*Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble to come upon people who invade us.*”

PRAISE AND TRUST GOD’S PROMISES

Habakkuk knows that a siege is coming. Babylon will cut off the city and the people from needed resources. They will destroy all the produce of the land (like we saw in *Joel*), “*the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls.*”

Despite this, Habakkuk resolved, **yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer’s; he makes me tread on my high places.**

You don’t need feet like a deer unless you walk where the deer walk—and in that place, they were capable of taking a treacherous mountain paths. You don’t need deer’s feet for straight level paths, you need them when the way forward seems impossible. By taking the easy path, you’ll miss the “high places.”

Jesus said, “*For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.*” We’re never promised ease and comfort in life. In fact, following Jesus often leads to quite the opposite. We’re never promised safety, we’re promised help and hope. Even when things seem dire, like all hope is lost, “*he makes my feet like the deer’s*” to overcome the impossible.