

At the start of the Reformation of the Church in Scotland in 1557, John Knox wrote to his congregation before going into exile and said,

*“You are bishops and kings; your wife, children, servants, and family are your bishopric and charge. Of you it shall be required how carefully and diligently you have instructed them in God’s true knowledge . . .*

*And therefore I say, you must make them partakers in, exhorting, and in making common prayers, which I would in every house were used once a day at least.”*

# Let’s Worship God

1st-6th December 2014  
Habakkuk



Let's Worship God is a ministry of



Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church

[airdrierpcs.org](http://airdrierpcs.org), 01236 620107  
Part of the RFCS - [rpcscotland.org](http://rpcscotland.org)

**Family worship, a joy to be experienced every day!**



# Let's Worship God

**Verse To Learn**  
God, the Lord, is my strength;  
he makes my feet like the  
deer's; he makes me tread on  
my high places.  
Habakkuk 3:19a

## reading notes

Habakkuk 2:12-20 - The Lord in His Holy Temple

God continues His assessment of the proud; in vs.12-15 those who build towns and cities by bloodshed and forced labour are judged, and those who are consumed by wine and immorality. God says there will come a time when His own cup of judgement will be the cup they are forced to drink (vs 16) - what a compelling warning to run as fast as we can away from sin, from pride, from wrong ambitions, and to live humbly for God.

God also shows that in their hearts they are actually living for their idols - whether wood or stone, gold or silver (vs. 18-19). These people believed their gods would speak through these images and teach them. Yet God abhors this kind of thing, even in churches - where a statue or a man takes His place as the object of worship. People today still worship images and statues in many nations of the world.

Yet, in our lives there can be idols too. Idols of plastic and metal, idols with four wheels, idols with screens, idols in our bank accounts, idols in thoughts. 'Things' can become 'gods'. Someone once said 'find what gives a man his greatest joy and that is his god'. That is so searching. John closes his letter telling his beloved congregation, 'my little children keep yourselves from idols'.

At the end God finishes His great vision with a mighty word - that the Lord is enthroned in majesty, and He alone is worthy of worship, that He is doing something glorious, even in this judgement. He is in His holy temple as Creator - and in the end we should all keep silence before Him. We must remember this - we are creatures of a Creator. The right response to Him is awe and reverence. God does not owe us an account of anything He does. He is the Judge of all the earth.

## questions

1. What are some idols of today?
2. What should we remember about God?

## praise pray

Ps. 84A:7-10

1. Give thanks that God is King over all.
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
3. Give thanks for Ian and Elizabeth Shaw.
4. Pray for family matters.



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## reading

Habakkuk 3:16-19 - Rejoicing in the Lord

## notes

'I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.'

God will be the source of our joy in the most empty of times. What He has done in our salvation, taking us from bondage, leading us through the wilderness, promising an inheritance in the city of God. God is our fellowship, God is our Beloved, God is our Father, God is the giver of every good and perfect gift - He is enough. That is the message of Habakkuk - God is enough. This gave him strength to continue.

'The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet,  
And He will make me walk on my high hills.'

When God is our joy - we can walk through this life, onto the high hills of a heavenly inheritance.

## questions

1. Who is our source of joy?
2. What is our inheritance?

## praise pray

Ps. 86A:1-6

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
3. Give thanks for Stephen and Brenda McCollum.
4. Pray for family matters.



Fri.  
5th Dec.

# Let's Worship God

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### reading notes

Habakkuk 3:16-19 - Habakkuk Rests in God

Habakkuk knows now that the judgement is certain, and Judah will be shaken and sifted in Babylon. He knows it will be a time of great trouble and distress. He begins to close his song saying 'my body trembled, rottenness entered my bones'. Any Christian will feel that way when they see God in judgement, and the church passing through a great furnace. Habakkuk, though troubled, turns his heart to God and sees Him as the ultimate source of joy and strength.

He describes how he cannot rely on the fruit of Israel for his joy - the fig tree will not blossom, no fruit will be on the vine, the olive trees will fail, the fields may be empty, there will be no herd in the stalls. But Habakkuk will rejoice in God Himself.

This lack of fruit can be taken spiritually. He is really saying 'though Israel becomes barren, and bare and gives no refreshment and gladness - I will rejoice in God!' Micah said in his day, 'there is no cluster to eat'. Christ compares the Kingdom to fields and vines. When days of spiritual adversity come, we struggle to find fruits and harvests. We may feel very alone, fellowship may be dry, there may be a lack of conversions. These people would go to the vineyards to make wine, which is a symbol of feasting and joyfulness; Habakkuk is saying Judah will not be a house of feasting through this trial - but his house of feasting will be God Himself! He can go to God in secret, and feast with Him in prayer and communion, finding his joy in the Lord alone!

### questions

1. How does Habakkuk feel about judgement?
2. Who will Habakkuk rejoice in?

### praise pray

Ps. 85C:all

1. Give thanks that we can rejoice in the Lord.
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
3. Give thanks for Christine, Jamie, and Eva White.
4. Pray for family matters.



Tue.  
2nd Dec.

# Let's Worship God

## Verse To Learn

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### reading

Habakkuk 3:1-2; Zechariah 12:10-14 - Asking to Be Revived

### notes

Habakkuk's soul is loosened slightly from his perplexity after hearing the Lord's voice. He is moved by God's declaration of the just living by faith, the proud utterly falling, and is in awe at the LORD in His holy temple. He is so moved he composes a psalm in response! "I heard Your speech and was afraid." He is filled with awe in meeting God.

Habakkuk asks God to 'revive' his work in the midst of the years, and in wrath to 'remember mercy'. What a prayer! Though the judgement is definitely coming, he asks that through it the LORD would revive, restore the church, and in the wrath, that God's mercy would come too and even crown the wrath in the end.

How much this should be the prayer of the Lord's people today! The situation for Jeremiah, Daniel, and Habakkuk was no different! When we think of God's power and Him sitting in might and glory on His Throne - we must be moved to ask for Him to act and make Himself known. He has all power in His hand, He can revive His work. So, how many of our prayers are a heartfelt cry for God to revive, and in His just wrath against national unfaithfulness or church unfaithfulness, that He would remember His mercy! Cry out like Habakkuk did!

Revival always comes when the heart of a man or woman experiences God in such a clear way that they are moved to pray and pour out their souls to Him in thirst and hunger. When the Spirit of grace and supplication is poured upon the church, our prayers take on an urgency and clarity that they somehow lacked. As T.V. Moore said of the prayers of God's people 'prayer is the gauge of the church'. Check the temperature of prayer, and that is the temperature of the church. Habakkuk knows he cannot revive the work, only the LORD can.

### questions

1. What does Habakkuk ask for in his prayers?
2. Why is prayer important?

### praise pray

Ps. 84B:all

1. Pray that we would grow in our desire to pray.
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
3. Give thanks for Gordon and Carol Smith.
4. Pray for family matters.



Wed.  
3rd Dec.

# Let's Worship God

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**reading** Habakkuk 3:3-11 - The God of Power and Redemption

**notes** After asking God to revive in power, the prophet encourages himself by remembering great displays of that power and deliverance in the past, especially the exodus from Egypt. That was when 'God came from Teman, The Holy One from Mount Paran'. He dwells upon God's appearance at Mount Sinai when He showed the glory of His power. God then appeared in light and shook the earth and mountains, and the nations trembled (v 3-5). Habakkuk then thinks of God measuring the land of Canaan, and dividing the waters of the Red Sea and the Jordan (v 6-10), and leading the people.

It is good for us to think upon what God has done in redemption in the past and also in our own salvation. At some point in our life He brought 'us' out of the house of bondage, He parted the Red Sea for us to go through, He gave us water from the Rock, Jesus Christ, in the wilderness. Though the adversary would tell us differently, Habakkuk says that if God was willing to begin this good work of salvation - then He will definitely complete it. Our redemption is based on deep love - and nothing can separate us from the love of Christ - tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, or sword, not things present or things to come, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus. If God became Israel's redeemer, He will continue to be so. If God has become our redeemer, He will continue to be so.

Habakkuk looks back to be encouraged by God's track record. He was doing what the Psalms tell us to do, "I will remember the works of the Lord; surely I will remember Your wonders of old" (Ps. 77:11-12). He did not redeem us to allow us to be destroyed - so even in judgement, we must hope in His power and mercy.

**questions**  
1. Why does Habakkuk look back at Israel's history?

**praise pray**  
Ps. 85A:all  
1. Give thanks that God will finish the work He began in us.  
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.  
3. Give thanks for Darren and Adam Smith.  
4. Pray for family matters.



Thur.  
4th Dec.

# Let's Worship God

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**reading** Habakkuk 3:12-16 - The Anointed Conquers the Land

**notes** As the prophet's song comes to a climax something else encourages him. He recalls the Lord driving out the ungodly people of Canaan to give Israel an inheritance in the land. God 'marched through the land in indignation'. He mentions this completed their salvation, and that it was a salvation 'with Your Anointed' (vs12-13). This 'anointed' is a reference to the 'Messiah', who all the kings of Israel pointed to.

God had promised in Genesis that the plan of salvation would lead to the coming of the Messiah, and that He would rule over the land of Israel - in righteousness and peace. This is a great statement of faith from Habakkuk - he has turned from trouble to hope that the people will return to the land, and ultimately the Messiah will come and rule over them. He even mentions that the Messiah will 'strike the head from the house of the wicked' a reference to the cross, when our King crushed the head of the enemy as promised in Genesis 3:15.

With all that we go through in this life - failure, fear, trials, captivity - we are freed from these distresses by seeing a far wider picture like the prophet did. Our pain and anguish may be necessary right now, but ultimately our hope is the same as Habakkuk - there is a land to inherit. Though we walk through valleys of judgement and opposition, though we see many fall - if we battle against sin and live by faith in this life, He will lead us through it all, and we will be brought to the land of inheritance - heaven itself. The land of Canaan was always a picture of the new heavens and earth, and Habakkuk knows that though the church is being brought through a furnace of affliction, the people of God are to have a land divided among themselves and be fully saved with the Anointed One! He is driving out the dross in the land, as King, and will reign over His spotless Bride in the end.

**questions**  
1. What gives Habakkuk hope?  
2. What hope do we have as believers?

**praise pray**  
Ps. 85B:all  
1. Give thanks for our eternal hope.  
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.  
3. Give thanks for Bob Smith.  
4. Pray for family matters.