

MINOR PROPHET MAJOR PRAYERS



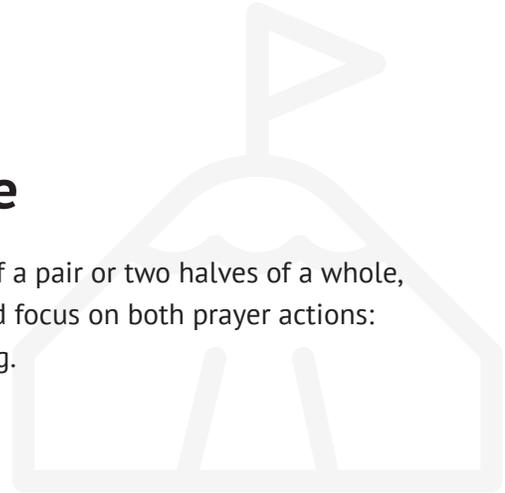
SUMMARY | Like us, Habakkuk wrestled with God in prayer. He questioned God’s silence and doubted God’s wisdom. When God withheld what Habakkuk wanted, Habakkuk negotiated for a partial settlement. When God said no, Habakkuk satisfied himself with what God wanted to give—Himself. Focusing on God’s character realigned Habakkuk’s prayers and instilled the prophet with great confidence. The book of Habakkuk reveals some major prayers from a minor prophet that can help us as well.

This Week’s Discussion Questions

1. Why doesn’t God answer prayer? Some suggest that Habakkuk’s book is similar to an entry in a private journal that laid bare how he wrestled with God in prayer. But it also illustrates Israel’s—and our own—wrestling with God. Read Habakkuk 1:1-4. Can you be honest enough to admit why you struggle with God in prayer?
2. Read Habakkuk 1:2-11. One approach Habakkuk uses in prayer is that he prays in advocacy for the people of Israel against the evil Babylonians. Who might you pray for in advocacy today?
3. Several decades ago, author Catherine Marshall wrote, “Prayers, like eggs, don’t hatch as soon as we lay them.” Read Habakkuk 2:1-3. What role does waiting play in prayer?
4. The Hebrew word for prayer actually means “cutting flesh.” How does Habakkuk pray with an honesty that is “cutting flesh” in Habakkuk 3:1-16? How can we follow this example?
5. Read Habakkuk 3:1-19. How have you been praying, like Habakkuk, with no evidence of God answering? How can you pray with confidence in this specific matter?

Challenge

Waiting and praying go together. Like two shoes of a pair or two halves of a whole, they work as a team. Honestly sit before God and focus on both prayer actions: waiting and praying.



Commit To Memory

“Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food,
though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.
The Sovereign Lord is my strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights.”

Habakkuk 3:17–19

Prayer

Dear God, Prayer can be challenging. And yet, we desperately want to take advantage of all You offer us through this amazing form of communication.

Help us learn to pray as Your prophet, Habakkuk,
prayed and grow closer to You in the process.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

