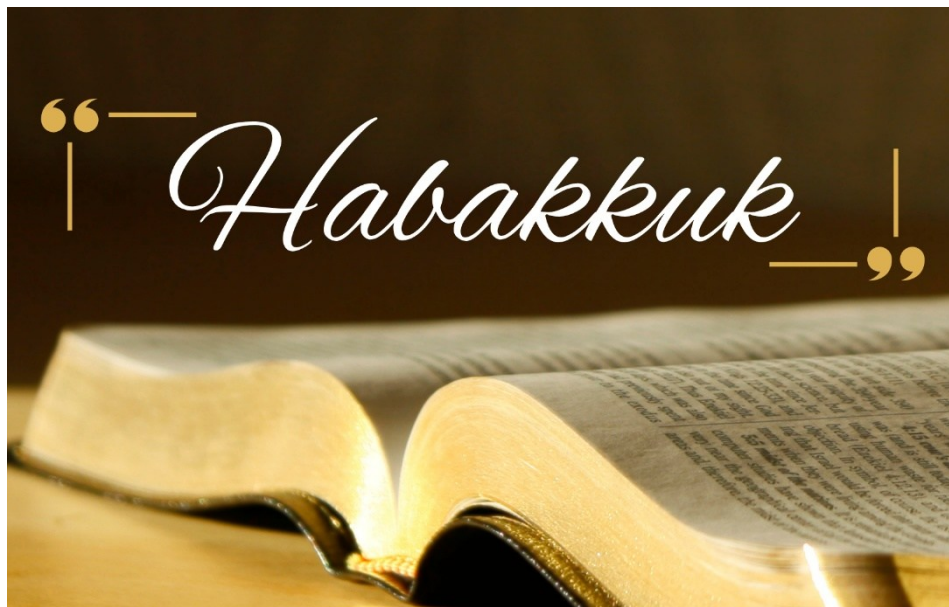


Daily Worship Notes

August 24th – 29th, 2026



Psalm of the Week: Psalm 64B. The words are on page 8.

Please pray for:

Mon - Ezra & Natalie, Adah & Faith Wilkinson

Tues - Bob Wilson

Wed - Nika Young

Thur - Todd Zihlmann

Frid - Leanne Zuiderveen

Sat - Cy & Heather Aiken

Bible Questions for the week:

Question: Who did a lot of the work on the ark?

Answer: Exodus 37:1

Question: What was acacia wood used for in the building of the ark?

Answer: Exodus 37:1, 4, 10, 15, 25, 28

The book of Habakkuk addresses a period of decline of the nation of Judah.

Pray and ask for the help of the Holy Spirit as you study it.

These notes have been prepared by Rev. Gary Gunn, a minister in the RPCNA.



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

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 during the years, and in wrath to 'remember mercy'. What a prayer! Though the judgment is coming, he asks that through it the LORD would revive and restore the church; and that, in the wrath, 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 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 as Habakkuk did! Revival always comes when the heart of a man or woman experiences God so clearly 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.

Question:

1. What does Habakkuk ask God for in his response?

Memory Verse:

"singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

Colossians 3:16



Tuesday – Habakkuk 3:3-11 – The God of Power and Redemption.

After asking God to revive in power, the prophet encourages himself by recalling past displays of that power and deliverance, especially the Exodus from Egypt. That was when “God came from Teman, and 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 (verses 3-7). Habakkuk then thinks of God measuring the land of Canaan and dividing the waters of the Red Sea and the Jordan (verses 8-10) and leading the people.

It is good for us to think upon what God has done in redemption in the past and 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 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 would remain 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 deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old." (Psalm 77:11). He did not redeem us to allow us to be destroyed - so even in judgment, we must hope in His power and mercy.

Question:

1. How does Habakkuk encourage himself?

Memory Verse:

“singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

Colossians 3:16



Wednesday – Habakkuk 3:12-16 – The Anointed Conquers the Land.

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 earth in fury". He mentions this completed their salvation, and that it was a salvation "of your anointed" (verses 12-13). This 'anointed' is a reference to the 'Messiah', whom 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 as the prophet did. Our pain and anguish may be necessary right now, but ultimately our hope is the same as Habakkuk's - there is a land to inherit. Though we walk through valleys of judgment 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.

Question:

1. What is Habakkuk, and our ultimate hope when facing judgment?

Memory Verse:

"singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

Colossians 3:16



Thursday – Habakkuk 3:16-19 – Habakkuk Rests in God.

Habakkuk knows now that the judgment 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 judgment 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.

Habakkuk 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. What does Habakkuk know is going to happen?
2. What does Habakkuk do next?
3. What is the reality of how days of spiritual adversity may look?
4. What remains constant in days of adversity and days of blessing?

Memory Verse:

"singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."
Colossians 3:16



Friday - Habakkuk 3:16-19 – Rejoicing in the Lord.

“I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.”

God will be the source of our joy in the emptiest 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.

“God, the LORD, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer’s; he makes me tread on my high places.”

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

Questions:

1. What is Habakkuk’s source of joy?
2. What is the main message of Habakkuk?
3. What does God enable us to do?

Memory Verse:

“singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

Colossians 3:16

THE BOOK OF PSALMS

Saturday - Psalm 1 - Happiness

(Notes written by Rev. Dr. Thomas Donachie.)

We live in days when boredom, depression and other forms of unhappiness seem to be very common indeed and happiness is often thought to be found in things that only bring temporary relief. Many would question whether true and lasting happiness can ever be enjoyed. In this first psalm we are given a key principle that can give true happiness.

The first word of the psalm is translated 'blessed', but it could equally be translated as 'happy', and so the psalm could be entitled, 'The Truly Happy Man'.

There is a contrast in the psalm, not just between the happy and the unhappy, but between the righteous and the unrighteous, and here we see the difference between God's perspective and that of man. Righteousness is often associated with being miserable and wickedness with 'having a good time'. Yet here it is the righteous that enjoy a life of happiness on earth and eternal bliss in heaven, whilst the ungodly have an unfulfilled life on earth and eternal misery after death. The blessedness or happiness spoken of is to be achieved by a rejection of certain ways of life and an acceptance of others. He is to reject the 'wisdom' of the world; he does not base his life on the advice of 'celebrities' or lifestyle gurus. He does not go where the people who do not know God go. He does not join in with them, especially with those who make fun of his Lord. His delight is not in wickedness, but in the 'law of the Lord'. His guidance for life is found through his regular study of the word of God.

Such a way of life is only possible for the one who has had his sins forgiven through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Questions

1. Where can true happiness be found?
2. How can we find this happiness?

Memory Verse:

"singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." *Colossians 3:16*

Psalm 64B

1. God, hear my voice, hear my complaint,
Preserve me from my foe.
Hide me from plots of evil men,
When sinners violent grow,

2. Whose tongues are sharpened like a sword,
With bitter speech like spears;
To shoot in secret at the just,
They shock and do not fear.

3. They set their minds on evil plans,
Lay traps, and say, "Who sees?",
With skill devise injustices,
Man's heart and thoughts are deep.

4. But God will shoot a shaft at them
And wound them all with dread.
So their own tongue will trip them up;
Those seeing shake their head.

5. Then all will fear and tell God's work,
Considering His deeds.
The just find refuge in the LORD,
In Him boast joyfully.