

# How Long, O Lord?

Habakkuk's Song Part 1  
Habakkuk 3:1-2  
March 3, 2024

...in wrath remember mercy. - Habakkuk 3:2

## I. A PSALM OF UNDERSTANDING

- Habakkuk has heard of the Lord and his workings. The report has left him in awe (Job 42:1-6).
- He has come to understand the Lord more than he had before. His patient waiting on the Lord has been rewarded with a newfound understanding (Hab. 2:1).

## II. A CRY FOR MERCY

- “In the midst of the years” likely refers to the interval between God’s judgment on Judah and his subsequent judgment on Babylon.
- Habakkuk wants to see the work of God again. Although he knows that means discipline for Judah, he wants God to remember his own merciful character in the execution of that justice (Ex. 34:6-7).
- God’s discipline is loving and merciful—his wrath no one can bear. His children receive appropriate discipline, but never his wrath (1 Thess. 5:9; Heb. 12:3-11).
- Often our deliverance from sin comes first with a rebuke. We must be willing to consider truth and apply it to our lives (Ps. 141).
- We should consider both aspects of God’s divine character (kindness/severity), and in so doing, ask him to be merciful (Rom. 5:18-21, 11:22).

**KNOW:** God is merciful, even in his discipline. When it comes to our lives, it is best to learn from it rather than fight against it. It is for our good, and it is contingent upon his lovingkindness.

**DO:** Submit to godly discipline. Cry out for mercy.

### Suggested Reading:

*The Grace and Truth Paradox: Responding with Christlike Balance* by Randy Alcorn (Available in the LifePoint Library)

### For Children:

*His Grace is Enough: How God Makes it Right When We've Got it Wrong* by Melissa Kruger (Available in the LifePoint Library).

**NEXT WEEK'S PREACHING TEXT:** Habakkuk 3:3-15

### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

#### **Please Read Habakkuk 3:1-2**

1. What is the opening theme to this song of Habakkuk?
2. Why does Habakkuk “tremble” or “fear” when he hears of God’s works? Should we tremble over what we know of God?
3. Habakkuk seems to be settled now with the idea that God will judge his people. What does Habakkuk want God to remember as he brings down his judgment?
4. Read Romans 5:18-21. How do you react to this passage?
5. Have you found God to be merciful to you even in his discipline?
6. How will this passage impact you now as you live out your faith?