



Mustard Seed Lesson Summary for July 15, 2007
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"A Reason to Hope"

Printed Text: Habakkuk 2:6-14.

GOLDEN TEXT: The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. -Habakkuk 2:14.

Habakkuk 2:6-14

6 Shall not all these take up a parable against him, and a taunting proverb against him, and say, Woe to him that increaseth that which is not his! how long? and to him that ladeth himself with thick clay!

7 Shall they not rise up suddenly that shall bite thee, and awake that shall vex thee, and thou shalt be for booties unto them?

8 Because thou hast spoiled many nations, all the remnant of the people shall spoil thee; because of men's blood, and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein.

9 Woe to him that coveteth an evil covetousness to his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of evil!

10 Thou hast consulted shame to thy house by cutting off many people, and hast sinned against thy soul.

11 For the stone shall cry out of the wall, and the beam out of the timber shall answer it.

12 Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, and stablisheth a city by iniquity!

13 Behold, is it not of the Lord of hosts that the people shall labor in the very fire, and the people shall weary themselves for very vanity?

14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

TEACHER'S NOTES ON THE LESSON

Habakkuk lived about six hundred years before Jesus was born. This prophet stepped onto the world scene just before the Chaldean army invaded Judah and carried off to Babylon captives such as Daniel. In fact, that was Habakkuk's message-God Himself was sending the violent Chaldeans (Babylonians). A ruthless enemy would overrun the country and gather up captives "as the sand" (Hab. 1:6, 9).

Punishment by deportation was coming because the people of Judah had simply closed their ears to the warnings given by earlier prophets such as Micah, Amos, and Isaiah. God had given Judah an opportunity to hear His warning, but the king and people refused to listen, and the injustices went on. Nothing was left to do but let the unhappy consequences of their rebellion overtake them.

Still, Habakkuk-and God-had a word of encouragement to give. No matter the past disobedience and the coming dark days of discipline, the day would certainly come when

not evil but knowledge of the glorious Lord would cover the earth as water fills the ocean. Someday the whole earth from east to west would recognize (the implication is *happily* recognize) the glorious Person of the Lord.

Like Habakkuk's listeners, we today are left with two truths to think about. First, the Lord cannot simply ignore disobedience. Sooner or later, unhappy consequences will come. Second, in spite of the godlessness we see around us, in God's good timing the entire earth will give Him proper recognition. That is His promise.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that although bad things happen everywhere today, the Lord promises that someday, knowing Him will fill the whole earth.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Sin has made the world an unhappy place where most people do not care about pleasing God.
2. Someday the badness and sadness and uncaring of today's world will be gone, and people from one end of the earth to the other will know how wonderful the Lord is.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS

For Telling the Lesson, you will need a flash card showing five differently colored stick figures, a picture of a Bible character representing Habakkuk, and an ocean scene.

For Helping to Remember, provide for each student crayons, safety scissors, a 9-inch circle drawn on light blue construction paper, glue, and a strip of white paper on which you have printed the golden text.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

Ben's mother was talking on the phone with Aunt Pat. She listened for a minute, and then she said, "Oh, no!"

Ben did not know what Aunt Pat had said, but he knew for sure it was not good news. People say "Oh, no!" when something bad has happened or is going to happen.

It was that way in Bible times too, except that people did not say "Oh, no!" They said "Oh, woe!" or "Alas!" Those words mean the same thing. The people were sorry that something bad had happened or was going to.

Aunt Pat's bad news turned out to be that she had broken her favorite mixing bowl. But Habakkuk had much sadder news than that to tell.

TELLING THE LESSON

You will remember God's friends Amos and Hosea and Isaiah and Micah and Zephaniah. (Show the five stick figures.) They all saw the same thing when they looked around. They saw selfish people forgetting the Lord, just pleasing themselves, and doing bad things to others.

God sent His friends to say no, those were not the sorts of things God wanted to see in His world. Great trouble would surely come if the people did not change.

But the people would not listen. We know they did not listen, because they did not change. After a while, when the Lord sent Habakkuk to them, he found them doing the same selfish things. (Show Habakkuk.)

People were not being honest. They were making themselves rich by taking from other people. By taking what belonged to poor people, they were making sure they would always have enough for themselves. They were still selfish.

Habakkuk sadly said, "Woe," for he knew they were bringing nothing but trouble on themselves. That was not happy news, but it was their own fault.

Much is wrong in the world today too. Sin has made it the kind of place the Lord never wanted His world to be. Wrong things keep happening. You have seen some of them happen even at school. Sometimes it seems that wrongdoing is everywhere.

But wait. Not all of Habakkuk's news was bad. He said wrong will not go on forever. Someday, instead of all the badness we see happening, the world will be full of people who know how good and great the Lord is. Someday, people who know God will fill up the world the way water fills up the ocean. (Show ocean.)

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

What shall we do while we are waiting? Let us walk with Jesus every day. Let us obey Him, even when bad things happen around us. God will do the right thing about the wrongdoing in the world. Let us thank Him that someday everybody everywhere will know how wonderful He is.

HELPING TO REMEMBER

Direct the children to fill their worlds by drawing people from different places who know how good and great the Lord is. Then they may glue the golden text on the back.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT

"The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" (Habakkuk 2:14).

This is one of God's good promises. Much badness is in the world today, but He says someday the world will be as full of people who know the Lord as the ocean is full of water.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON

In our lesson next week we learn from the Prophet Jeremiah about the "Results of Disobedience." Study **Jeremiah 7:11-15; 2 Kings 23:36, 37.**

Lesson Summarized By

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Word Search Activity

A Reason to Hope

B C S O Z J E N B E N C B A K
V S V W V E G G A P Y C X S U
D E R E V I L E D T V J R V K
K Y J V H S S T E E I T K X K
B E A M I Q Q R T V L O R O A
S P O I L E D I E B I W N L B
E L P O E P M T A T I L O S A
P F O D C B T O E Q A Y Q N H
B Y R I E S U W S V J W O S K
F O T R N I E N B E R I F G M
L Y M I W N M L H D G B M I A
C M A W Y N A D H Z C F R F P
E G H X N E H C T U D M J E P
A O R K H D S X D B Q F A Z G
M C W I U N O T F D H Z X H G

AGAINST
DELIVERED
HABAKKUK
NATIONS
SHAME
TIMBER
WOE

BEAM
EVIL
KNOWLEDGE
PEOPLE
SINNED
TOWN

CITY
FIRE
LORD
SEA
SPOILED
WATERS

19 of 19 words were placed into the puzzle.

A Reason to Hope Solution

+ + + + + E N + + + + + K
+ + + + + G A + + + + + U
D E R E V I L E D T + + + + K
+ + + + + S + E E I + + + K
B E A M + + + R T V L O + + A
S P O I L E D I E + I W N + B
E L P O E P M T A T + L O S A
+ + + D C B T O E + A + + N H
+ + R I E S + W S + + W + + K
+ O T R N I E N + E R I F + +
L Y + I + N M + + + + + + + +
+ + A + + N A + + + + + + + +
E G + + + E H + + + + + + + +
A O + + + D S + + + + + + + +
+ + W + + + + + + + + + + + +

(Over,Down,Direction)

AGAINST(1,14,NE)

BEAM(1,5,E)

CITY(5,8,SW)

DELIVERED(9,3,W)

EVIL(9,4,SE)

FIRE(13,10,W)

HABAKKUK(15,8,N)

KNOWLEDGE(15,9,NW)

LORD(1,11,NE)

NATIONS(8,1,SE)

PEOPLE(6,7,W)

SEA(9,9,N)

SHAME(7,14,N)

SINNED(6,9,S)

SPOILED(1,6,E)

TIMBER(9,5,SW)

TOWN(8,7,S)

WATERS(12,9,NW)

WOE(3,15,NW)