



READ: Habakkuk 2:1, 3:2, 16b-19 (NirV)

I will go up to the lookout tower. I'll station myself on the city wall. I'll wait to see how the Lord will reply to me. Then I'll try to figure out how his reply answers what I've complained about. Lord, I know how famous you are. I have great respect for you because of your mighty acts. Do them again for us. Make them known in our time. When you are angry, please have mercy on us... But I will be patient. I'll wait for the day of trouble to come on Babylon. It's the nation that is attacking us. The fig trees might not bud. The vines might not produce any grapes. The olive crop might fail. The fields might not produce any food. There might not be any sheep in the pens. There might not be any cattle in the barns. But I will still be glad because of what the Lord has done. God my Savior fills me with joy. The Lord and King gives me strength. He makes my feet like the feet of a deer. He helps me walk on the highest places.

ENTER THE STORY:

Habakkuk was a messenger for God to the people of Israel, and he lived during a very hard time. Israel's enemies were attacking and conquering them, and they were very sad. Habakkuk was confused about this because Israel was God's special people, and he didn't understand why God wasn't protecting them. Instead of getting mad at God, he decided to go straight to him and ask him what he was doing and why he wasn't listening to their cries.

Unfortunately for Habakkuk, God's answer was not all that comforting. God basically told him that he DID hear the prayers of his people, but things were going to get worse before they got better. WOW! Can you imagine hearing that from God? This must have been very difficult, but Habakkuk knew that God was a good and just God, so he marched up to a tall tower and waited for God to explain.

After God explained to Habakkuk more of what was going to happen, Habakkuk left a bit afraid and nervous, but despite his fears, he chose to trust God's plans and be joyful that God would save his people in the end.

What about us? Is God enough for us?

Could we say that if we had no gifts this Christmas, and there was no delicious Christmas dinner waiting or yummy treats in our stockings, that we would be glad and trust in God as our Savior? If Jesus was all we had in this world, would that be enough and make us happy – or would we always want more?

This Christmas, we want to be like Habakkuk as we peek down from our Jesse Tree like a watchman on a tower, leaning over to get a better look and hoping to see the only One in all this world who really matters... Jesus, our Messiah, and Savior.

PRAY: *Lord Jesus, may we always take our confusing and tough questions to you first and wait for your answer. May we care little for the things of this world but run to the very heights, anxious for your coming... you who are everything to us and more than enough. Forever. Amen.*