

**Awed by God**  
Habakkuk 3:1-2

Have you ever been so terrified and fearful that you trembled and quaked with fear? Have you ever seen or heard something that made you shake with fear? In Scripture, people trembled hearing God. David said, *"I tremble for fear of You, and I am afraid of Your judgments"* (Psalms 119:120). Jeremiah said, *"My bones tremble like a drunken man ... because of the Lord's words"* (Jeremiah 23:9). Daniel said, *"I saw this great vision and no strength was left in me..."* (Daniel 10:8). Have you experienced this fear?

"Lord, I have heard Your report **and I fear**.  
O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years,  
In the midst of the years make it known;  
In wrath remember mercy" (Habakkuk 3:2).

To understand what causes Habakkuk to tremble you must read Habakkuk 3:16 – *"the day of distress."* The word *Shigionoth* (3:1) refers to a musical tune or meter that's erratic or very irregular (dark music).

**I. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom in my life.**

*"O Lord, I have heard Your report (KJV – "your speech"), and I fear"* (v. 2). The Hebrew word translated "fear means "awe" or "respect" *"My flesh trembles in fear of You; I stand in awe"* (Psalm 119:120). John Newton wrote, *"Twas grace that caused my heart to fear and grace my fears reliev'd."*

**A. Those who oppose God have no fear of God.**

*"The way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes"* (Rom. 3:18).

**B. The wise person fears God and lives life well.**

Dysfunctional living is acting contrary to the Maker's desire. When the Creator made us, He made us in His image, creating us for good works, to live for others, reflecting His character.

**C. Wisdom only begins for me when I fear the Lord.**

*"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight"* (Proverbs 9:10). Hearing what God says and doing it requires other graces that the Spirit gives. What happens when my life is selfish and sinful? What does God do for me in those times?

**II. The Lord corrects me through either His word or His work.**

*"Judgment must begin at the house of God"* (1 Pt. 4:17). *"If you are not disciplined--and everyone undergoes discipline--then your illegitimate, not true sons and daughters of God"* (Hebrews 12:8).

The Lord sent the Assyrians to destroy the Kingdom of Israel in 722 B.C. and the Jews knew this. Habakkuk lived when Jerusalem was filled with violence and the Jews were rebellious toward God. God's corrections of His people came in 722 B.C. (through Assyria) and 586 B.C. (through Babylon).

**A. Habakkuk spoke words of repentance to the people.**

Perhaps that is part of why he says: *"O Lord, I have heard your report and I fear."* The fear of the Lord comes by hearing. *"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God"* (Rom. 10:17).

**B. Habakkuk felt the work of repentance with the people.**

Habakkuk, Jeremiah, Daniel and other prophets all went through the Babylonian attack and exile. The pain of God's work ultimately produced humility; but I'd rather be broken by His Word.

**III. The greatest prayer I can pray is for the Lord to bring revival to my heart.**

*"Revive your work ... in the midst of years make it known; in wrath remember mercy"* (Hab. 3:2).

1. It is the Lord's work in my heart; 2. It can come imminently (nothing hinders it); 3. It is merciful.