

=BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 35

Habakkuk

Objects to have:

The sign for this new book: HABAKKUK

Mysteries

Something heavy to carry - a "burden"

A handkerchief

Writing tablet

Inside the tablet have these five sheets, one sheet for each following phrase:

Terrible trouble to you because of dishonesty

Terrible trouble to you because of selfishness

Terrible trouble to you because of cruelty

Terrible trouble to you because of giving liquor to others

Terrible trouble to you because of laziness

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

Remember that God told some of His men what would happen in days and years to come. Those preachers were called prophets. Some Bible books are named after these prophets. (Review with the children the books that are named after the prophets. Begin saying the books at Isaiah.)

Now let's say together all the names of the books of the Bible that we have learned so far. (Review all the books of the Old Testament studied thus far.)

Another preacher who learned about things that were going to happen was named Habakkuk. God told Habakkuk things that were going to happen in days to come. Habakkuk was a preacher, and God told him what to tell His people and also what to write down so the people could read what God told Habakkuk.

Telling the story:

Habakkuk said that he saw a burden. (Pick up your "burden.") "Burden" means two separate things. First, a burden can be something that is heavy to carry. (Put down your "burden." Pick up a handkerchief and pretend to cry.) Second, a burden can be something that makes a person very sad. God had a burden; Habakkuk saw God's burden. God's burden was not something heavy to carry; God's burden was something that made God sad.

God told His burden to Habakkuk. He was telling Habakkuk, "There is so much wickedness in the world. There is much wrongdoing even among the people whom I call My own. It makes Me sad to think about it," God said. God also told Habakkuk, "I will have to punish My people terribly bad. I will also punish other countries of people because of their wickedness. They refused to trust Me."

Habakkuk said to God, "Dear Lord, I do not want to see the wickedness of the people and of the nations. It does not make me happy to think about such things."

God insisted that Habakkuk see His burden. God told Habakkuk, "Get out your writing tablets. Write what I tell you."

(Pick up your tablet in which are the signs which you have made.) Habakkuk decided that he would listen to what God had to say to him. He decided that he would write down the words that God told him to write down. He knew that it is always best to do what God says to do. (Talk for a moment to the children about their doing in the

future, as well as right now, what God wants them to do. If you are talking to boys, talk to them about the fact that if God wants them to be preachers, they, too, should be preachers like Habakkuk. If God wants the children to be Sunday school teachers, missionaries, school teachers, pastors' wives in the future, they should be willing to do what God wants them to do.)

Habakkuk wrote, "And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it." (Habakkuk 2:2) A vision is like a dream. Our dreams aren't visions. God gave Habakkuk a vision.

(Reach into the tablet and pull out sheet number one.) God said, "Write this down, Habakkuk. Woe unto the person who is dishonest." (Demonstrate the following.) Terrible trouble will come to the person who takes something that does not belong to him. Someone may see something that he wants. That something does not belong to that person. What if he reaches out and takes it? He would be stealing! He would be dishonest. God says, "Woe to him that takes something that does not belong to him." What if a student is taking a test in school, and that student does not know the answer to a question. That student looks over on another student's paper, and he copies down answers from that other paper. That is called stealing, also; it is cheating. That is being dishonest, also. Terrible trouble will come to anyone who is dishonest. It is dishonest to use in wrong ways the money that God allows us to have. We are never to gamble. We are never to buy dope, cigarettes, liquor or go to bad places, spending the money God gives us. We are not to steal from Him the money that belongs to Him. If Mother or Daddy or someone else gives us money for the Sunday school offering, it is dishonest not to put it into the Sunday school offering. God sees that. He says that terrible trouble will come on anyone who is dishonest.

(Take out sheet number two.) God says that terrible trouble will come to anyone who is selfish. We have enjoyed good things: toys to play with, good food to eat, clothes to wear. Whenever we can share with someone who needs something, and we do not share, then we are being selfish. God says that trouble will come upon the person who does not want to share with others. Trouble will also come upon the person who wants his own way and wants everything for himself.

(Pull out sheet number three.) Terrible trouble will come upon the cruel person. I saw a child once who was crowded by another child. The child who was crowded got angry, and he hit the other child. Many people want to "get even" with other people! Somebody does something wrong or bad to somebody else. The person who is wronged says, "I'll get even with him. I'll make him sorry he ever did that." God says terrible trouble will come to the person who wants to "get even" with another person or "pay them back." God says He will take care of wrongs that are done to His children. If someone does wrong to us, let's just trust Him to take care of that.

(Pull out sheet number four.) We all know that it is terrible sin to drink liquor. God has given us good minds and good bodies. It is a sin to do wrong to our minds and to our bodies. It is wrong to drink beer or wine or whiskey or to use dope. God said to Habakkuk, "Terrible trouble will come to people who even so much as give liquor to someone else." It is not only wrong to drink liquor, but it is wicked to give liquor to someone else. At Christmastime a bottle of whiskey was sent to a man for a present. He would not drink the whiskey. He thought about what he ought to do with that bottle of liquor. Then he remembered that it is wicked to give that liquor to anyone else. He took the bottle and poured the whiskey down the drain and threw the bottle away. That's because it is wicked to even give beer or wine or whiskey to someone. Terrible trouble comes to the person who gives liquor to another person; God told Habakkuk to write this down.

(Hold up sheet number five.) God said to Habakkuk, "I want My people to be good workers. It is wicked to be lazy. Whenever there is work to be done, My people ought to do their work." Not only are we to work, but we are to do the best that we can at any work which we are doing. It is wicked not to do our best, and it is wicked not to finish a job that we have started. Has Mother or Daddy or Teacher told us to do some work? We need to do the job and not to stop working until the job is done.

Habakkuk saw God's burden. Habakkuk saw the bad things that would happen to wicked people. Habakkuk saw how sad God was at having to decide to punish His people and the other nations who were wicked.

It is so important that we live right, that we think right, that we do right. If we do less than right in everything, then we are being wicked, God says. Trouble comes upon us whenever we have been wicked, whenever we have done wrong. Do not forget this, however: God loves us. That is why He is warning us in the Bible about trouble that can come upon us whenever we do wrong. Habakkuk wrote about that.

If we trust Jesus, we should want to do right. Then we are called, just.

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: Habakkuk 2:4, "...but the just shall live by his faith."