

1. While serving as a United States ambassador in Paris, France, _____ read Habakkuk 3:17-18 to a group of skeptics who ended up extravagantly admiring its stately beauty.
2. In the trenches of real-life struggles, the absolute key to Habakkuk's experience of joy in the face of adversity was his _____.
3. Habakkuk was progressively transformed by God from paralyzing fear to a mature faith after learning that the _____ were about to invade and attack his nation.
4. To show that he was shaking with fear throughout his whole being, Habakkuk used several _____ terms, noting that his heart pounded, his lips quivered, and his legs trembled.
5. The mighty apostle _____ gave a telling glimpse into his own inner struggles in 2 Corinthians when he wrote that he faced "conflicts on the outside, fears within".
6. Contrary to popular belief, faith actually becomes _____—and not easier—as you mature spiritually.
7. The preacher notes that God usually treats _____ with a special kind of tenderness, much like a parent does a newborn, which is why they often see so many striking answers to prayer at first.
8. In his essay on prayer, C. S. Lewis wrote that if we were braver, we might be sent with far less help to defend far more _____ posts in the great battle.
9. To show we don't have to pretend to be like "Superman" and hide our fears, the sermon recounts a story about former boxing champion _____ refusing to buckle his airplane seatbelt.
10. The sermon describes history not as an end in itself, but as a transition time—a " _____ " between Eden and the new heaven and earth still to be formed by God.

11. While a lifetime of suffering feels incredibly long to us, the vision of eternity puts it into proper perspective, showing that it is a "mere _____" in comparison.
12. Theologian Berkouwer wrote that pain can be seen as the great "_____ " of eternity, fanning in us a deep thirst for where we will someday be.
13. Habakkuk 3:16b-19 contains what some theologians have called the greatest statement of _____ in the entire Bible.
14. Habakkuk's reference to the _____ suggests anticipated energy and surefootedness even when the foundations beneath him are violently shaken.
15. The sermon contrasts a timid faith with a bold faith by sharing a story of a traveler creeping cautiously over frozen winter ice, while another man drove a heavy horse-drawn load of _____ confidently across.
16. A woman named Jeannie advised slam-bolting the door on "those _____ " (like losing a job or health), but Habakkuk welcomed them in because he knew God was in the room with him. 17. The great English poet _____, who knew deep mental suffering himself, turned Habakkuk's testimony of joy into a beautiful hymn ending with: *"For, while in him confiding, I cannot but rejoice."*

Answer Key & Study Notes

1. **Benjamin Franklin** — Franklin, though not a Christian, deeply admired the literary beauty of the Scriptures and used this passage to gently expose the ignorance of skeptics in Paris.
2. **faith** — It wasn't the circumstances that brought Habakkuk joy, but his mature faith, which anchored his soul when everything else fell apart.
3. **Babylonians** — The threat of a violent invasion by this nation was the catalyst for Habakkuk's painful but transformative spiritual journey.
4. **anatomical** — By referencing his pounding heart, quivering lips, and trembling legs, Habakkuk was honest about the physical reality of his deep fears.

5. **Paul** — Even the mighty Apostle Paul openly admitted his fears, reminding us that true faith doesn't require us to pretend we are fearless.
6. **harder** — As we grow spiritually, God treats us less like infants and sends us to tougher battles, meaning faith often requires more effort and trust, not less.
7. **new Christians** — Like a parent pampering a newborn, God often provides immediate, tender answers to prayers for those starting their walk to build their trust.
8. **desperate** — C. S. Lewis argued that stronger, more mature souls are trusted to defend the most challenging and desperate spiritual outposts.
9. **Mohammed Ali** — The legendary boxer's humorous seatbelt exchange reminds us that none of us are "Supermen"—we all rely on God's protection and have real limits.
10. **parenthesis** — History is merely a temporary pause, a brief transition, between the perfect creation of Eden and the glorious coming recreation of heaven and earth.
11. **dot (or minute)** — Compared to the infinite timeline of eternity, even a long lifetime of human suffering is a tiny, temporary speck.
12. **Not Yet** — Pain acts as a constant reminder that we are not in our permanent home yet, fanning a healthy spiritual thirst for eternity.
13. **faith** — Because Habakkuk rejoices in God despite absolute agricultural and economic ruin, this section represents an unparalleled declaration of trust.
14. **deer** — This imagery symbolizes the grace, energy, and surefootedness God provides to navigate high, rocky, and unstable places.
15. **coal** — The coal driver's bold, whistling confidence represents a mature faith that knows the "ice" of God's promises is thick enough to hold any burden.
16. **supposings** — While worldly advice says to lock out the "what-ifs" of life, a mature faith opens the door to them because we know the Sovereign Lord is in the room with us.
17. **William Cowper** — Despite suffering from severe mental anguish and depression throughout his life, Cowper found deep personal resonance in Habakkuk's message of joy.