

# Habakkuk 2:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reprov'd.

## Analysis

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After voicing his complaint, Habakkuk assumes a watchful posture: 'I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reprov'd' (al-mishmarti a'amodah ve'etyatzevah al-matzor va'atzappeh lir'oth mah-yedabber-bi umah-ashiv al-tokhachti). The prophet positions himself like a sentinel ('upon my watch,' 'upon the tower'), waiting expectantly for divine response. This models appropriate posture after bringing complaints to God: not demanding immediate answer but patiently watching, confident God will respond. 'What he will say unto me' (mah-yedabber-bi)—Habakkuk expects personal response to his questions. 'What I shall answer when I am reprov'd' (umah-ashiv al-tokhachti)—he anticipates possible correction, showing humility. This demonstrates mature faith: bold enough to question, humble enough to be corrected, patient enough to wait.

## Historical Context

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Ancient watchtowers served as observation posts where sentinels watched for approaching dangers or messengers. Habakkuk uses this imagery to describe spiritual watchfulness—positioning himself to receive divine communication. Throughout biblical history, prophets often waited for God's word, sometimes extended periods. Habakkuk's patient expectation models the prophet's calling: not speaking presumptuous human opinions but waiting for genuine divine revelation. This contrasts with false prophets who spoke their own thoughts,

claiming divine authority. True prophecy requires both boldness to speak and patience to wait for God's actual word.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does Habakkuk's patient waiting after voicing complaints model appropriate prayer posture?
2. What is the relationship between boldly bringing questions to God and humbly accepting His responses?
3. How can believers cultivate spiritual watchfulness, positioning themselves to receive divine guidance?

## Interlinear Text

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עַל	מִשְׁמֶרֶת י	אֶעֱמַדָּה	וְאֶתִּיצֵב ה	עַל	מִצֹּר
H5921	upon my watch	I will stand	and set	H5921	me upon the tower
	H4931	H5975	H3320		H4692
וְאֶצְפֶּה ה	לִרְאוֹת	מֶה	יֵדְבַר	בִּי	וְהָא
and will watch	to see	H4100	what he will say	H0	H4100
H6822	H7200		H1696		
אֲשֶׁר יב		עַל	תּוֹכַחְתִּי:		
unto me and what I shall answer		H5921	when I am reproved		
H7725			H8433		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 21:8** (Parallel theme): And he cried, A lion: My lord, I stand continually upon the watchtower in the daytime, and I am set in my ward whole nights:

**Isaiah 62:6** (Parallel theme): I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence,

**Psalms 85:8** (Parallel theme): I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly.

**2 Samuel 18:24** (Parallel theme): And David sat between the two gates: and the watchman went up to the roof over the gate unto the wall, and lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold a man running alone.

**Psalms 5:3** (Parallel theme): My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.

**Jeremiah 12:1** (Parallel theme): Righteous art thou, O LORD, when I plead with thee: yet let me talk with thee of thy judgments: Wherefore doth the way of the wicked prosper? wherefore are all they happy that deal very treacherously?

**2 Corinthians 13:3** (Parallel theme): Since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, which to you-ward is not weak, but is mighty in you.

**Job 31:37** (Parallel theme): I would declare unto him the number of my steps; as a prince would I go near unto him.

**2 Kings 9:17** (Parallel theme): And there stood a watchman on the tower in Jezreel, and he spied the company of Jehu as he came, and said, I see a company. And Joram said, Take an horseman, and send to meet them, and let him say, Is it peace?

**Isaiah 21:5** (Parallel theme): Prepare the table, watch in the watchtower, eat, drink: arise, ye princes, and anoint the shield.