

# HOW LONG, O LORD?



FIRST MELISSA

**How long**, O Lord? Will You  
forget me forever? **How long**  
will You hide Your face from me?  
**How long** shall I take counsel in  
my soul, having sorrow in my  
heart all the day? **How long** will  
my enemy be exalted over me?

Psalm 13:1-3



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# How Long, O Lord?



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# How Long, O Lord?



George Floyd



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# How Long, O Lord?



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# Book of Habakkuk



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# Is this what Americans are saying now?

How long, O Lord [יהוה Yahweh],  
will I call for help, and You will not  
hear? I cry out to You, “Violence!”  
yet You do not save. Habakkuk 1:2

Habakkuk couldn't understand why God seemed to do nothing about the wickedness in society. - Life Application Bible



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Habakkuk asked the Lord...

Why do You make me see iniquity, and cause me to look on wickedness? Yes, **destruction and violence are before me; strife exists and contention arises. Therefore the law is ignored and justice is never upheld.** For the wicked surround the righteous; therefore justice comes out perverted.

Habakkuk 1:3-4



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Even in a crisis, Habakkuk declares...

I will stand on my guard post and station myself on the rampart; and I will keep watch to see what He will speak to me, and how I may reply when I am reproved. Habakkuk 2:1

דָּבַר *dabar* Hebrew verb “to speak” or “to say”

God wants to speak to us. Are we ready to listen?



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# Book of Matthew



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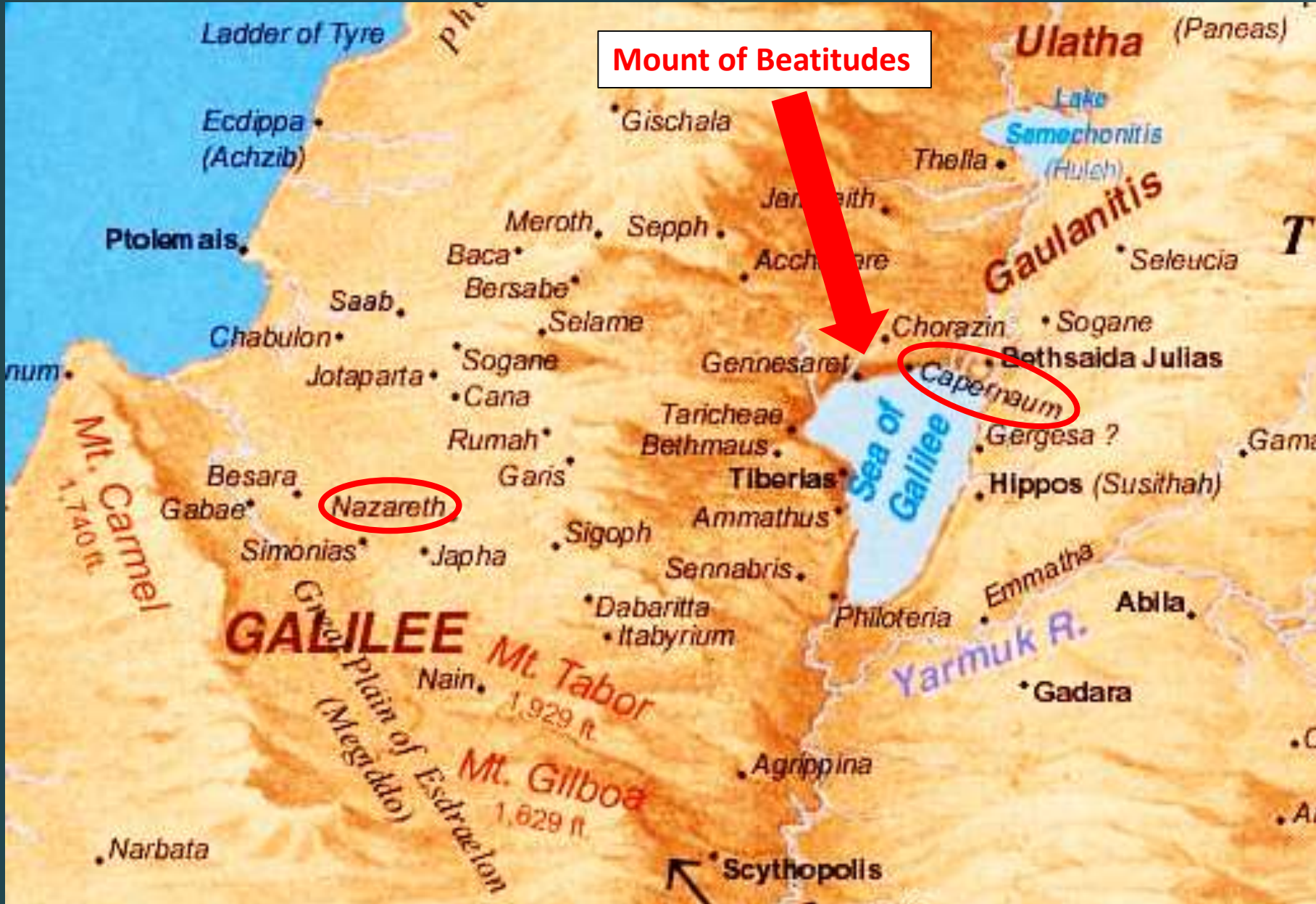
# Shoreline of the Sea of Galilee



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# Land of Israel in the days of Jesus – Galilee region







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# Sermon on the Mount

Matthew chapters 5-7

When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. He opened His mouth and began to teach them, Matthew 5:1-2



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# Who was in that crowd?

- Jesus spoke to people who dealt with fear and worry and distrust of their neighbors.
- His audience struggled to survive in a culture of violence and economic difficulty.
- His listeners wondered how to find peace and meaning in daily lives that seemed very stressful and hopeless.
- The people wondered if the Messiah could help them find spiritual meaning in the real world.



About 600 years after the prophecy of Habakkuk, Jesus taught...

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven. So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”

Matthew 6:1-4



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“When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.” Matthew 6:5-8



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“Pray, then, in this way:

‘Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven  
our debtors.

And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver  
us from evil.

[For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the  
glory forever. Amen.]” Matthew 6:9-13



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“For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.” Matthew 6:14-15

- Hurt people hurt people
- Loved people love people
- Forgiven people forgive people





“Whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites do, for they neglect their appearance so that they will be noticed by men when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.” Matthew 6:16-18



“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for **where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**” Matthew 6:19-21

\*Earthly/Temporal vs. Spiritual/Eternal



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“The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and wealth** [Aramaic word ‘mammon’].” Matthew 6:22-24



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“For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life?”

Matthew 6:25-27

What is forbidden here is worry, not responsible provision for one's own and one's family needs; God provides food for the birds, but they still have to search for it! – Bible Knowledge Commentary



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“And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith!” Matthew 6:28-30





“Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for **your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.**”

Matthew 6:31-32

So why pray?



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# Disciples Don't Compartmentalize

- To Messiah Jesus, our emotional, physical, spiritual, financial, and psychological lives all exist together.
- While we separate them, He combines them.
- Is Jesus the Lord of all?



**If we will listen, then God will answer**

“Behold, as for the proud one, his soul is not right within him; **but the righteous will live by his faith.**”

Habakkuk 2:4

אמונה **emunah** “faith” comes from the Hebrew root word **emun** meaning “practice”



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# What does “live by faith” look like?

Though the fig tree should not blossom and there be no fruit on the vines, though the yield of the olive should fail and the fields produce no food [crop failure], though the flock should be cut off from the fold and there be no cattle in the stalls [loss of all livestock], **yet I will exult in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation** [Elohei Yishi יְשׁוּעַי אֱלֹהֵי].

Habakkuk 3:17-18



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# What does “live by faith” look like?

Jesus taught...

“But **seek first His kingdom and His righteousness**, and all these things will be added to you. So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” Matthew 6:33-34



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# How Long, O Lord?

This week's answer...

**Until my first thought and my first desire are God's kingdom and His righteousness**



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