

Doing Further Consultation

TODAY'S PASSAGE:

Habakkuk 3:17-19

TIME COMMITMENT:

30 minutes

Consultation involves the use of secondary sources. They can shed light on the text that will help you make more sense of what you're looking at. You see, we never want to become arrogant in the study process by thinking that we've got all the answers, that the Holy Spirit speaks to us, but He's never spoken to anyone else. The truth of the matter is, thousands of people have walked this road before us. But one word of caution: Never forget the order. First the text of Scripture; then secondary sources.

It helps to have "tools" to assist you in Bible study after you've observed and interpreted the text to the best of your ability. A good study Bible and an exhaustive concordance are key to Bible study. But in addition, you will probably make good use of a Bible dictionary, Bible handbook, Bible atlas, a good commentary, and other helpful resources. As we learn to consult the right references, our Bible study can progress to a new depth.

Collect all the "tools" you have for Bible study and again read Habakkuk 3:17-19. You've already used a concordance, so use the other resources to see what you can find out about some of the following things. You've already answered some of these questions on your own. Now see if you can discover anything new about them.

What was the significance of grapes, olives and figs in Bible times?

How important were herds of sheep and cattle?

TRUTH THAT TRANSFORMS

What else can you discover about the Babylonians (or “Chaldeans”) who were attacking the city?

Speaking of the city of Jerusalem, what would have made it a challenging target for an invading force? Why was it worth the effort?

Based on the words chosen to describe God, what was Habakkuk’s intention in describing His Lord?

What other questions do you have about the passage?
