

Habakkuk 1:1-11

When God Answers Part 1 - 10.15.17

We know very little about the prophet Habakkuk, **but we do know that he is famous for COMPLAINING to God about the injustices in the world.**

- What's important about the book of Habakkuk is that God **ANSWERS** the prophet when he gave his complaint.
- **What do you do when God answers with answers that don't make sense?**

Habakkuk 1:1-11

Most believe Habakkuk lived in Judah during the end of the reign of the godly king, Josiah (640 to 609 BCE) and at the beginning of the ungodly king, Jehoiakim (608 to 598 BCE) (see **2 Kings 22:2-2 Kings 23:36-24:5**).

- When Habakkuk wrote his book, sin was **rampant** in Judah.
- During King Jehoiakim reign, the people worshipped idols, sacrificed their children to pagan gods and literally just ignored God. (see **2 Kings 23-24, 1 Chronicles 3:15-16, Jeremiah 1:3, Jeremiah 22-52, and Daniel 1:1-2**)

² **How long, LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen?**

- Habakkuk looked at the **violence** and injustice around him and **wondered where God was**, and wondered why **it seems like God isn't doing anything about it.**
- **Injustice seems to be the new NORM.**
- And to make matters worse, we are **a nation DIVIDED by every means possible**, whether it is race, gender, sexual orientation, politics, and more.
- We live in a country that has inflated a false sense of security, and our house is built like a house of cards.
- **Just like us**, Habakkuk **STRUGGLED** to understand how God works.
- The **SILENCE** of God in human affairs, then and now, has always been difficult to understand. Wouldn't you expect **with all the wrong in society** that God would reach down and right all the wrongs?
- Yet, despite what we think, God is present and is fully aware and can actually see all of the things we cannot see. (see **Isaiah 55:8-9**)
- **Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV)** *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."*
- God might not be answering our every complaint, but rest assured, even when it seems that God is not in control in the situations in your life, He is.
- Don't stop asking for His providences because He will answer, maybe not **the WAY** we would have chosen, maybe not **WHEN** we would have chosen, but He will answer.
- Habakkuk may have prayed 12 years before God responded to him.

- During his wait, he learned something about God's timing: God wasn't ignoring his prayer, but He was **working** behind the scenes.

⁵ *"Look at the nations and watch— and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told. ⁶ **I am raising up the Babylonians**, that ruthless and impetuous people, who sweep across the whole earth to seize dwellings not their own.*

- **God is not here to meet our EXPECTATIONS, but He is here to raise ours!**
- The Lord was very aware of what was going on and He was preparing a specific discipline for corrupt Judah, the ruthless Babylonians.
- The Babylonians were coming and there was no hope of stopping them.
- **And this is God's answer for justice?**
- This doesn't seem fair, but God needed to get their **ATTENTION**.
- **What's it going to take to get your attention?**

There are lessons to be learned here.

#1 God is in CONTROL.

- No event has ever rose up **in spite of God** or left Him astonished, bewildered, or confused. But remember God has a plan and He will judge evildoers in His time and in His way. (see **2 Peter 3:9**)

#2 Be careful what you ask for.

#3 Just because God has not answered you immediately, does not mean He has not HEARD you. (see **Romans 8:28**)

- Look around you and see where God is working in other ways.

#4 God does allow EVIL to accomplish good in our lives.

- Remember, God used Pharaoh and Nebuchadnezzar to get the attention of the wayward!
- **What we see as a tragedy, God sees as a great OPPORTUNITY.**
- Often, when tragedy strikes, people are more open to seeking spiritual truth.
- **Our job is not to try to UNDERSTAND God, but to trust Him and be obedient to His call.**

#5 Someday SOON, we will all reap what we sow. (see **Hebrews 9:27**)

#6 God wants us to pay attention to what is going on in today's world, but not to WORRY about it.

- We can spend these final days worried about what's to come or we can be **READY** for what's to come. Habakkuk teaches that though we cannot always change our circumstances, we can change our attitude toward them.
- God is in control, now let him **BE IN CONTROL!**