

Habakkuk 1:12-2:20

When God Answers Part 2 - 10.22.17

Habakkuk 1:12-13 (NIV) ¹² *LORD, are you not from everlasting? My God, my Holy One, you will never die. You, LORD, have appointed them to execute judgment; you, my Rock, have ordained them to punish.* ¹³ *Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?*

- Habakkuk complained to God and waited 12 years for God to answer with an answer he didn't want to hear. Our problem we have is **we want answers, but we want OUR answers, answers that BENEFIT us**. Yet, God doesn't work this way. Sometimes God's answers don't make sense, **at least right now**. Often, after time has passed, we can look back and see God's faithfulness to us, but initially we think God ignored us, but God knows what's best for us.
- To Habakkuk, rewarding Babylon seemed like a **PERVERSION of justice**.
- He thought that Judah's sins and wickedness were dwarfed by the atrocities committed by the Babylonians. **We need to be careful that we don't categorize which sins are worse than other sins.**
- **SIN is sin.** (and see also **James 4:17**)
- **Don't fall into the trap where we COMPARE ourselves to others to see who's better. We are all sinners saved by grace!**

Habakkuk 1:14-17 - So Habakkuk goes on to explain how bad the Babylonians were using fishing metaphors – even though **God had just explained** how bad they are.

- **Philippians 4:6** (NIV) *Do not be anxious about anything BUT in everything – by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*
- **If you truly trust God, make your request and then stop COMPLAINING!**
- **I'm glad that God doesn't need our help, but CHOOSES to use us anyway.**

Habakkuk 2:1 - Habakkuk said to God that he would stand attentive and wait for God's response. God, in His graciousness, answered him in order to **INSTRUCT** all of Judah what God desires.

Habakkuk 2:2-3 (NIV) ² *Then the LORD replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it.* ³ *For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.*

- **He tells him to do is to WRITE down what God tells him.**
- **God gave specific instructions: Make it plain** means in large legible characters, **on tablets** which means on engraved on wood, **so the herald may run with it** means so easily legible that anyone running past it in public might read them.
- **God did not want any confusion here.** God tells Habakkuk not to let the people miss or dismiss the revelation because it will not happen immediately.

- Just because we don't see immediate results doesn't mean it won't happen.
- God will reward us for our **PATIENCE**. (see **Isaiah 40:31**)

Habakkuk 2:4 (NIV) ⁴ *"See, the enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright—but the righteous will live by faith –*

- In verse 4, we get the revelation – even though man is self-sufficient, the **righteous will live by FAITH**. (see also **Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, Hebrews 10:36-37**)
- Here God tells Habakkuk, you are right that the Babylonians are puffed up and swollen with evil passions, but you are going to have to trust me.
- Many of us say we have faith, but **UNTIL** our faith is **TESTED**, we just believe.
- **Unfortunately, it's easier for me to CHANGE what I believe than it is to work through my faith.** As long as I try to get something from God, I will have a difficult time surrendering my life to God.
- **Are you willing to walk by faith?**

The remainder of the chapter, God describes why the Babylonians will get what is due them, **just not yet**.

- First, in verse 5, God says that Babylon's addictedness to wine will be their ruin.
- Ironically, the Babylonian regime was overthrown by **Cyrus the Great of Persia in 539 B.C.** while Babylonian King Belshazzar and his leaders were having a drunken banquet (see **Daniel 5**).
- **Then God pronounces five woes**, an exclamation of disaster, **on Babylon**.
- **Woe #1 – Woe to the GREEDY.** (2:6-8)
- **Woe #2 – Woe to the UNJUST** (2:9-11)
- **Woe #3 – Woe to the VIOLENT** (2:12-14)
- **Woe #4 – Woe to the SEDUCERS** (2:15-17)
- **Woe #5 – Woe to the IDOLATERS** (2:18-19) (see also **Exodus 20:4**).

Six truths from today's passage:

#1 Look at God, not your PROBLEM. (see **Philippians 4:6-7**)

#2 Give your problems to God, then WAIT for the answer.

#3 Even when you don't understand God, you must have FAITH in Him.

#4 If God gives you a revelation, WRITE it down.

- Why write out what God tells you? **So (1) you don't FORGET and (2) so God can prove Himself FAITHFUL.**

#5 EXPECT an answer, maybe not right away, but expect it.

#6 God rewards FAITH.

Habakkuk 2:20 (NIV) ²⁰ *The LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him.*

- **God is still on the throne.**
- **Live by faith.**

