

Bringing Injustice Before God Pt. 3

Habbakuk 1:2-4, CBC January 10, 2024 I Will Wait for You

As you study, memorize Habakkuk, **Look for theme, The Path of Faith in the Providence of God; how? Key is posture,** 1. Come before God honestly and humbly 2. Come seeking to submit to God's Word, but make connections to your life with careful precision 3. Avoid the easy route of venting and taking apart. Come prepared to do the hard work to build up your faith. 4. Look for areas to meditate and worship—in face of bewilderment, Habakkuk still has assumptions about nature of God that set him up to grow, to receive from God—in this context, Habakkuk brings injustice b/r God **I. I went to the right place with injustice, but there is no action.** 2 How long, O LORD, will I call for help, And You will not hear? I cry out to You, "Violence!" Yet You do not save. "how long" implies being in for long time with no expected response; **cry out**—shout, scream b/c of distress or horror, (emotions of one who can't get away, **cry out VIOLENCE!** (6x in book) also v. 3, 9, 2:8, 17 2x; society falling apart, **couple sources defined as flagrant violation of moral law by which man injures primarily his fellowman; physical brutality only one possible expression; Question: Why?**—how could a righteous/compassionate God NOT ANSWER WHEN I CRY TO HIM FOR HELP IN THESE twisted unrighteous SITUATIONS? sobering not only in what Habakkuk feeling, but also what might happen to our relationship with God in this situation; looked at **Luke 18:1-8** calls for perseverance in prayer in face of injustice and indifference; **Learn from Habakkuk—this question can be asked in faith/trust:** includes coming to God, continuing fervently in prayer even when faith is shaken; **part of humble posture need comes from remembering that we are not the only one asking this how long question Ex. 16:27-28, Num. 14:9-11, Matt. 17:17—what should these "HOW LONG" passages do for us?** Remind us that there is more wrong going on then what we notice—including our own-- **I Sam. 8:18, Is. 59:1-2, be amazed God hears ANY sinner; look at Lk. 18 from this perspective;** when asked in trust, then join those asking from HEAVEN **Rev. 6:10 Applic.** If God present and righteous in face of "violence," then pressure causing you to scream or fall apart part of helping your faith get roots—THIS wrestling of Habakkuk IS part of being servant of God **II. Because of your inaction, wickedness proliferates** 3 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. while strife/contention elicits many responses from us, v. 3 people/Habakkuk's options are limited--can't get away; **make me see—cause me to look** forced to stay and see 1st word pair **iniquity/wickedness** injustice, depravity, evil & wrong; 2nd word pair—**destruction & violence** (same pair Amos 3:10; Jer. 6:7) social oppression; the stronger, selfish against weaker in society **strife/contention** (3rd word pair also used together in **Pr. 17:14**), strife that spreads! **strife**--word for lawsuits/going to court against others Kaiser—denounce one another to the authorities; Devour/blame one another, think Gal. 5:15—bite/devour, consume one another; Jm. 3:14-16 wisdom from below filled w bitter jealousies/selfish ambition—earthly/natural/ demonic—disorder/every evil thing, **God—too much! b/c you don't seem to be acting, wickedness just keeps piling on—NO stopping ; Punish wickedness; don't let it continue!** if you are numb, not desiring to right wrongs, escape b/c too big OR b/c too afraid of doing it wrong, you are part of problem (hence commands to seek justice, help those suffering under injustice)—**but what SHOULD an eternal perspective on wickedness spreading around you and righting wrongs include?** What do you see about wickedness/God/you in **Ps. 22:1-11** He still there, but have to wait before deliverance comes—be with me as I go through it; God WILL judge **Rom. 2:5** recognition of accumulating wrath and final just judgment, therefore, remember He DOES see **James 5:1-6**, and WILL judge **Jm. 5:7-11**, so cultivate patience INSIDE your trust—look farther for things to be made right; seems this one innocent, but think about **Deut. 28:15, 29**—curses that are just as sure as God's blessings—His word is trustworthy and includes violence (read rest of these curses—sobering); okay, God, so much to take in—I'm calling to you—so much violence—PLEASE MAKE IT STOP/MAKE IT RIGHT!

II. It has infiltrated even the institutions set up to bring justice

4 **Therefore the law is ignored And justice is never upheld.** Talking @ boundaries—purpose? Tim worked on that w adult Sunday School—can accomplish life's purposes peacefully—food, shelter, maintain, discovering ways to do it better, do it together with other people; not merely survive, but flourish/prosper; law/justice allow these things to take place; **how does the law get ignored? What would justice not upheld imply?** Distracted from purpose; then not upheld b/c distracted by other's distraction/ignoring—they follow another agenda, we follow another agenda; **where does law head?** To answer this must look to source; we so worried about Law now in time of lawlessness, but this is sad because even greater than our wonderful US Constitution; this law came from God Himself as part of relationship with and under Him for their own good **Deut. 10:12-13**; and yet, mere possession of the most perfect system of justice not enough; if not maintained (held up, taken seriously, meditate, etc.), practically ineffective; "God's law is numbed." Robertson, p. 140 **key words in our covenant/constitution** We acknowledge that this Constitution and By-laws is but a tool, and that apart from the presence and work of the Holy Spirit in our midst, it will prove ineffective in maintaining a vibrant and obedient local body of believers. **Remember new covenant promise in Jeremiah?** God's words would be? Written on their hearts—Paul says, II Cor. 3:2, YOU are our letter . . . ; **our lives live out reality of the law of God in heart;** Matt. 7 wise man/foolish difference? Not ones who heard, but those who DID—**What does your life show about attention to God's Law, your honor to God as true center** (You see Him as glorious in His love, righteousness, your purpose for life found in fellowship with Him and displaying His glory as you honor His words, communicable attributes, and live diligently for His will with His resources)? **Where are you distracted individually? Family? Here at church—do we enforce God's law as center b/c we put relationship with Him as center? OR does it get pushed to side as follow something more important** (us getting wrapped up in relationship problems, finances, jobs, politics, family rather than seeking fellowship with God); **what results from God's Law ignored/justice not upheld? For the wicked surround the righteous; Therefore justice comes out perverted.** Twisted, bent out of shape—**what does this mean?** We don't live with NO justice—people follow their own reality, their own goals, their own prioritization of right/wrong/punishments—take a little from different places; **not only follow, but enforce it on you/me;** when not final word, when not yielding to God's revelation every time, then not end with God's product; chaos, unmanageable; **time when wicked would have been**

more hesitant to challenge victims so openly, but now, not stopped, so did openly, Kaiser therefore, those seeking to honor God's law drowned out, worn down, or watered down by others—where do we feel this pressure? How does it work? Family, friends—no one wants to feel like center, source, conscience for world; try to seek/accomplish His goals which include THEM, but takes extra work to be with those who enjoy different things, get upset about different things; they don't notice, want you, or seek to use you; We don't like where this leads, so what are our options? But what would process of putting God's Word/Law as final in practice have to include in these situations?

Exodus 16:27–28 It came about on the seventh day that some of the people went out to gather, but they found none. 28 Then the LORD said to Moses, “How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My instructions?”

Numbers 14:9–11 “Only do not rebel against the LORD; and do not fear the people of the land, for they will be our prey. Their protection has been removed from them, and the LORD is with us; do not fear them.” 10 But all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Then the glory of the LORD appeared in the tent of meeting to all the sons of Israel. 11 The LORD said to Moses, “How long will this people spurn Me? And how long will they not believe in Me, despite all the signs which I have performed in their midst?”

Deuteronomy 10:12–13 “Now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the LORD'S commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good?”

Deuteronomy 28:15, 29 “But it shall come about, if you do not obey the LORD your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: 29 and you will grope at noon, as the blind man gropes in darkness, and you will not prosper in your ways; but you shall only be oppressed and robbed continually, with none to save you.

1 Samuel 8:18 “Then you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you in that day.”

2 Kings 25:7 They slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, then put out the eyes of Zedekiah and bound him with bronze fetters and brought him to Babylon.

Proverbs 17:14 The beginning of strife is like letting out water, So abandon the quarrel before it breaks out.

Isaiah 59:1–2 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not so short That it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull That it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

Matthew 17:17 And Jesus answered and said, “You unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him here to Me.”

Luke 18:1–8 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, 2 saying, “In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. 3 “There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, ‘Give me legal protection from my opponent.’ 4 “For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, ‘Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, 5 yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.’ ” 6 And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge said; 7 now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? 8 “I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”

Romans 2:5 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

James 1:25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

James 5:1–6 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you. 2 Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure! 4 Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. 5 You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned and put to death the righteous man; he does not resist you.

James 5:7–11 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. 8 You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. 9 Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door. 10 As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

Revelation 6:10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”