

Bringing Injustice Before God

Habakkuk 1:2-4, Wednesday, December 27, 2023

Habakkuk: Introduction and Background Habakkuk 1:1

THEME: The Path of Faith in the Providence of God

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What do you think should be the **posture we take before God in the face of injustice, doubts, fears, and lack of hope?**

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.

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4. Look for areas to meditate and worship.

Habakkuk: Introduction and Background Habakkuk 1:1

“Positive statements, even statements that do not reflect present reality, share the prophet’s personal confession about the nature of God. God is . . .

Waylon Bailey, NAC, p. 284-285

- The Creator (1:14)
- Eternal (1:12)
- A personal God, related in a personal relationship with the prophet (1:12)
- An awesomely holy God, pure and distinct from all creation (1:12)
- Sovereign over history and all its nations (1:12, 2:13)
- A rock that can never be moved or changed (1:12)
- One who punishes disobedient people (1:12, 2:16)
- One whose purity makes him avoid all appearances of evil (1:13)
- One with no tolerance level for evil and wrongdoing (1:13)
- One who speaks with his prophets and reveals his plans (2:1)
- One who brings woe and destruction on all evil (2:6-19)
- Planning salvation for the earth so that he can fill all his creation with his presence (1:14)
- At home in his temple on earth and in heaven (2:20)
- So awesome that people must be silent when he is present (2:20)

Habakkuk: Introduction and Background Habakkuk 1:1

“God shows that He is . . .

Waylon Bailey, NAC, p. 284-285

- Planning to act in unbelievable ways (1:5)
- Able and willing to use enemies for his purposes even when they are wicked (1:6)
- Able and willing to reveal himself and his purposes to his people (2:2-3)
- Lord over his revelation and will bring it to pass in his own time (2:3)
- The one who always speaks the truth (2:3)
- The God of the righteous who serve him faithfully (2:4)

Meditation on God's past history also reveals much about the divine nature.

He is . . .

Waylon Bailey, NAC, p. 284-285

- Famous so that people talk about what he has done for them (3:2)
- Active with deeds that silence people awestruck (3:2)
- A God of wrath (3:2, 12)
- One who comes to his needy people from his ancient dwelling place (3:3)
- The glorious one who acts bring forth praise that fills the universe (3:3)
- So splendid in appearance that he dims the dawning sun (1:4)
- Powerful (3:4)
- In control of all diseases (3:5)
- In control of all history, all nature, and all people (3:6-7)
- Willing and able to show his anger against sinful peoples as exemplified in the exodus from Egypt (3:8-15)
- In control of all the chaotic waters and deeps (3:8-10)
- Uses even the heavenly bodies for his purposes (3:11)
- Our Savior from the enemy and the protector of our anointed leader (3:13,16)
- The source of all our strength (3:19)

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

- I. I went to the right place with injustice, but there is no action.

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

O God, why have You rejected us forever? Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your pasture?

Psalm 74:1

How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? 2 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? 3 Consider and answer me, O LORD my God; Enlighten my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,

Psalm 13:1–3

Bringing Injustice Before God

Habakkuk 1:2-4

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.

2 Kings 25:7

“Behold, I cry, ‘Violence!’ but I get no answer; I shout for help, but there is no justice. 8 “He has walled up my way so that I cannot pass, And He has put darkness on my paths.

Job 19:7–8

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

Indeed, there was also a man who prophesied in the name of the LORD, Uriah the son of Shemaiah from Kiriath-jearim; and he prophesied against this city and against this land words similar to all those of Jeremiah. 21 When King Jehoiakim and all his mighty men and all the officials heard his words, then the king sought to put him to death; but Uriah heard it, and he was afraid and fled and went to Egypt. 22 Then King Jehoiakim sent men to Egypt: Elnathan the son of Achbor and certain men with him went into Egypt. 23 And they brought Uriah from Egypt and led him to King Jehoiakim, who slew him with a sword and cast his dead body into the burial place of the common people.

Jeremiah 26:20–23

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth. 13 Then God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth. Genesis 6:11–13

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; 7 who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.”

Exodus 34:6–7

What happens to our prayer life (or fights against it) in the face of these questions? What does this reveal about our prayer life/relationship with

Prayer Life:

- Irreverence creeps in
- Discouragement grows
- Inconsistent and lack of perseverance with specific prayers
- Stop living and praying inside of God's words (other words speaking louder)
- God's will becomes vague and uncertain therefore lack of confidence in prayer (not confident before Him)
- Take things into our own hands (because so large and God's not doing anything)
- Our suffering becomes our righteousness (justifies us)

Relationship with God:

- Need answers that make sense or that we can't hear
- Are you reverent? (belief and obedience go together) Continuing to return shows we believe this is part of the process. Faith that perseveres.
- We choose another God to follow (when not get my answer) Not the God of the Bible (emotions and lack of consistency reveal)
- Lack of perseverance, no long term vision of what God is doing, but what I'd like in this life
- Comfortable with what is instead of continued groaning (for wrongs of people of God)

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

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?”

Luke 18:1–8

How would you sum up Luke 18:1-8's call to prayer and what parallels do you see with our situation in Habakkuk?

- Will we wait for and trust God's just and righteous care and action for His people? (look for and expect Him to act)
- Perseverance and faith, He will come through with what He has promised
- Our faith is shallow and dishonoring to God, expectation in our obedience and prayer life
- Know where to get help, where help comes from, growing dependence on God by active going to Him as He has called us to and help each other to turn to Him

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

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? Exodus 16:27–28

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“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? Numbers 14:9–11

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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.” Matthew 17:17

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What should THESE “How long” passages do for us?

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

“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.”

1 Samuel 8:18

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.

Isaiah 59:1–2

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

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?”

Revelation 6:10

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

- I. I went to the right place with injustice, but there is no action.
- II. Because of Your inaction, wickedness proliferates.

Bringing Injustice Before God Habakkuk 1:2-4

What do we naturally DO when we see strife/contention/conflicting wills?

Bringing Injustice Before God Habakkuk 1:2-4

**What do we naturally DO when we see strife/contention/conflicting wills?
Why? What motivations/goals/fears are involved? Why is it important to
evaluate what is behind what we do in these situations?**

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

“He has not observed **misfortune** in Jacob; Nor has He seen **trouble** in Israel; The LORD his God is with him, And the shout of a king is among them.

Numbers 23:21

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

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

Proverbs 17:14

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If you are numb to injustices, escape because too big or afraid won't do it right, you are part of the problem, but what does an eternal perspective on wickedness spreading around you and righting wrongs also include?

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

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,

Romans 2:5

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

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 5:1-6

New American Standard Bible : 1995 update. 1995. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

“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.**

Deuteronomy 28:15, 29

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- I. I went to the right place with injustice, but there is no action.
- II. Because of Your inaction, wickedness proliferates.
- III. It has infiltrated even the institutions set up to bring justice.