

God's Astonishing Answer to Injustice Pt. 4 Habakkuk 1:5-11, CBC February 21, 2024 Afflicted Soul

6-7 Good Friday Habakkuk pours out heart **I. I went to the right place with injustice, but there is no action.** V. 2 I've been crying to you, **When?** will you act? **II. Because of your inaction, wickedness proliferates** v. 3 **III. It has infiltrated even the institutions set up to bring justice** v. 4 **Question: Why?** how could righteous/compassionate God NOT ANSWER/act when cry to Him for help in these twisted unrighteous situations? God responds **I. Pay attention and you will see my work** 5 "Look among the nations! Observe! If you do as God intends, you will **Be astonished!** Startled & Amazed!!! See something else happening that elicits **Wonder!** disbelief, **Because I am doing something in your days—You would not believe if you were told.** **Why? What?** 6 "For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, NOT where you looking—Judah, Assyria, or Egypt, I am addressing problem of injustice and perversion among my people with the Chaldeans; **LOOK** at the Chaldeans and see **MY HAND** **II. Study the object of My work to learn more of My ways** vv. 6-11 show people so fierce/unfeeling that all swept away before them; swiftness, violence, destruction, hopelessness, **would astonish/wonder/hold your attention; but SHOULD be astonished by?** **III. Trust My Word to Bring Justice to All** I AM WORKING—many of words/pictures describing Chaldeans describe God and His work as well; Though the Chaldeans seemed unstoppable and God's promises to Israel of blessing seem to wilt under their cruel destruction, what took place was under God, prophesied for years, as far back as **blessings/curses Mt. Ebal/Gerizim Deut. 28:15, 49;** No, God unstoppable; therefore **Ps. 2:12** v. 11 **But they will be held guilty, They whose strength is their god.**" process what we've heard; I AM DOING SOMETHING; God is using violence to stop violence, wickedness to judge wickedness—**when only focus on what can see/hear/feel/fear/desire, MISS God's work and deliverance**—Saw this as v. 5 quoted in Acts 13:41—many Jews rejected Christ as the prophesied Messiah b/c didn't fit w what looking for; **Failure to listen to God through His appointed means leads to lying about God and His will, misleading yourself and others.** people of day countered what God's men and God's Word said; **Jer. 5:12, 6:14, 7:8;** yet God says **But they will be held guilty, They whose strength is their god.**" For those in Acts, same judgment for not listening to God's Word and messengers; **I Thess. 2:14-16; take seriously God's Word AND God's interpretation and means of communicating that to you; but when DO believe He can use the Chaldeans, then must widen scope of handling injustice to include . . .** think of any injustice against you, something twisted—God could be using for you/for all of us? What fears arise? What must remember to counter those fears? **what purpose do the Matt. 6:25-32 illustrations serve in helping us obey Matt. 6:24,33?** Even when seeming life necessities are at stake **INCLUDING** safe place to live, work, thrive, **GOD** not only at work, watching, overseeing, but cares; remember this even through judgment; **Failure to see God rightly concerning judgment leads to self-righteous judgment of God and others and looking to God to eliminate our fears rather than looking to Him to speak truth to us IN our fears;** watch **WHAT** looking to God for—Don't let wrong things hold attention—NOT injustice only; **after all these things the Gentiles seek;** YOU seek Him first, remember His words; **Lest we fall into same trap as Judah in Habakkuk's day, Jews in Paul's day, like Habakkuk, must come before God to change our perspective so that our justice and authority [don't] originate with [our]selves.** **We ALL** know that pride is dangerous and that we are not the final word, yet w yet how do we end up even as professing Christians being our own authority? Rightly, the Spirit of God makes answer to Christ, so must disagree, go different directions then even other Christians at times, but wrongly, "own understanding" creeps in leading to "own understanding" among other reasons b/c of lack of precision w goals God has given for freedom—ie. **Gal. 5:13, who are the one another's to serve?** Lost God's Sovereignty over lives when ignore both words AND His structure for obedience (do good to all, especially household of faith—must prioritize (not easy to balance own head/heart, those at church, family, neighbors, co-workers, etc., but **MUST dig deeper OR not LIVE CHRIST to level God calls us to with these closest to us (love, forgiveness, etc.) leaving us dependent on self instead of God;** Learning about faith here; **Lesson 1: 1. There is more than you can see. Trust the One who sees all.** what keeps people from fully trusting college freshman, students in general, young adults? they assume they see; **why do they at times resent this?** (rightly or not) can't see that can't see; BUT sometimes, rightly resent b/c others not seeing how they differ from the norm—**both ignorance of what can't see b/c can't see that can't see, but also lack of precision that extends to those assessing them as well;** **Look—Observe—what do you see?** **what** is at center of depression—why hard to get people out? Opposite also true—**what** does it take to take down a confident person? Elon Musk, Donald Trump, Vladimir Putin, Justin Bieber, Kim Kardashian, LeBron James, you or me? **what does sin** have to do w all of these? Narrows perspective—tendency to think we are doing it best we can even when not happy; **rather trust own tests for way to live** as shown by defensiveness and keeping own counsel (backed by google and podcasts youtube w/o interacting w others to test); **focus on deeds,** what HAVE done (Judah, men in Acts), "trying" and "all on our plates"; easily offended when questioned, crossed, want to be heard rather than hear; **Matt. 15:12-14, Jn. 9:35-41;** THIS is focus of Hab. 2:4—NOT in what you can see alone? By faith—in God who DOES, CAN see resulting in deeds done as result of looking outside of self; didn't have it in Acts, didn't have it here—**Habakkuk showed faith by attitude of where went for answers and acknowledging that his perspective wrong, not God's;** Jesus, Lk. 5 throw your nets over—first response? We fished all night, but at your bidding--**If we take the message of verse 5 to heart, what will change about our When & Why questions as look at injustice & hypocrisy & perversion & violence?** **Trust that don't see big picture even while what you see MAY be part of that picture;** **Knowing that you don't see the big picture but He does allows you freedom to not have to trust your perspective as totally accurate—to see it at best as always incomplete picture; THEN freed to trust the One who does see; THEN freed to look & observe;** THIS mess, clearly tied to God's Word—**Lam. 1:5, 2:17, 3:11-13, 16-18,** but b/c

God orchestrating, reason for hope **Lam. 3:19-40**

Deuteronomy 28:15, 49 "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: 49 "The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as the eagle swoops down, a nation whose language you shall not understand, **Psalm 2:12** Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him! **Jeremiah 5:12** They have lied about the LORD And said, "Not He; Misfortune will not come on us, And we will not see sword or famine. **Jeremiah 6:14** "They have healed the brokenness of My people superficially, Saying, 'Peace, peace,' But there is no peace. **Jeremiah 7:8** "Behold, you are trusting in deceptive words to no avail. **Lamentations 5:21-22** Restore us to You, O LORD, that we may be restored; Renew our days as of old, 22 Unless You have utterly rejected us And are exceedingly angry with us. **Matthew 15:12-14** Then the disciples came and said to Him, "Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this statement?" 13 But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant shall be uprooted. 14 "Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit." **Luke 12:19** "And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry." "

John 9:35–41 Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” 36 He answered, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” 37 Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.” 38 And he said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped Him. 39 And Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind.” 40 Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, “We are not blind too, are we?” 41 Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

Galatians 5:13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

1 Thessalonians 2:14–16 For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they did from the Jews, 15 who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God, but hostile to all men, 16 hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved; with the result that they always fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them to the utmost.

1 Peter 4:12–13 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; 13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

Revelation 2:10 ‘Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.