

God's Astonishing Answer to Injustice Pt. 2

Habakkuk 1:5-11, Wednesday, February 7, 2024

God's Astonishing Answer to Injustice Pt. 2

Habakkuk 1:5-11

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Habakkuk 1:5-11

- I. I went to the right place with injustice, but there is no action.
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- III. It has infiltrated even the institutions set up to bring justice.

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Habakkuk 1:5-11

- I. Pay attention and you will see my work.

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Habakkuk 1:5-11

- I. Pay attention and you will see my work.
- II. Study the object of My work to learn more of My ways.

Sum up what you would see, think of, feel, and value if what you heard was imminent. What would be astonishing?

- Sense of helplessness
- Sudden, life-altering, despair, will I be able to endure?
- Where do we look to fix it? Will God stop this? We will be crushed? God is one doing this?
- I am going to die
- Sense of I MUST do something
- Indignation / boiling rage / anger
- Go into survival mode
- This would fill your gaze, either cave or resolute to survive/pick apart

But what **SHOULD** be astonishing?

- That God is working (He is caring for me/ providing)
- That people should/will be able to trust God & endure through it
- God did it and part of His trustworthy word & righteous character

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- II. Study the object of My work to learn more of My ways.
- III. Trust My Word to bring justice to all.

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Habakkuk 1:5-11

“Then it shall come about **when the LORD your God brings you into the land which He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you, great and splendid cities which you did not build, 11 and houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and hewn cisterns which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and you eat and are satisfied, 12 then watch yourself, that you do not forget the LORD who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.**

Deuteronomy 6:10–12

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Habakkuk 1:5-11

Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, and laid each half opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds. 11 The birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, and Abram drove them away. 12 Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, **terror** and great darkness fell upon him. Genesis 15:10–12

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This they will have in return for their pride, because they have taunted and become arrogant against the people of the LORD of hosts. 11 The LORD will be **terrifying** to them, for He will starve all the gods of the earth; and all the coastlands of the nations will bow down to Him, everyone from his own place.

Zephaniah 2:10–11

“You also say, ‘My, how tiresome it is!’ And you disdainfully sniff at it,” says the LORD of hosts, “and you bring what was taken by robbery and what is lame or sick; so you bring the offering! Should I receive that from your hand?” says the LORD. 14 “But cursed be the swindler who has a male in his flock and vows it, but sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord, for I am a great King,” says the LORD of hosts, “and My name is **feared** among the nations.”

Malachi 1:13–14

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“You shall not dread them, for the LORD your God is in your midst, a great and **awesome** God. Deuteronomy 7:21

He was **afraid** and said, “How **awesome** is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

Genesis 28:17

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“Judah has rejected God’s mispat [word for justice in verse 4] or order in its society (v. 4); therefore Babylonia’s order (mishpat, v. 7) will be imposed upon it. Judah has opted for violence among its inhabitants (v. 2), therefore Babylonia’s violence will be its punishment (v. 9). . . . The punishment fits the sin.”

Elizabeth Achtemeier

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“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:

Deuteronomy 28:15

“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,

Deuteronomy 28:49

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“You shall have sons and daughters but they will not be yours, for they will go into captivity. 42 “The cricket shall possess all your trees and the produce of your ground. 43 “The alien who is among you shall rise above you higher and higher, but you will go down lower and lower. 44 “He shall lend to you, but you will not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you will be the tail. **45 “So all these curses shall come on you and pursue you and overtake you until you are destroyed, because you would not obey the LORD your God by keeping His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you.**

Deuteronomy 28:41–45

What does looking at Habakkuk 1:5-11 in the context of these other Scriptures that show God's word and work in Israel's history do for our response to God in times of injustice and suffering?

- Gives a perspective beyond enabling to continue through trusting and obeying God
- No matter how hard or unreasonable God's commands seem, we end up worse for not obeying AND we lose the assurance of God's care
- There is something greater than both the injustice and the corrective action, including whatever else God wants to teach us
- Look wider at what is going in the nations

Why couldn't the Jews listening to Paul's careful proof of the gospel through Christ accept it?

- Christ's glory lost amidst competing spectacles
- They thought they saw scripture correctly, had their own righteousness – religion
- Something that makes us choose sin rather than to bow to the Creator – independence better than repent & obey
- Too much work to rethink
- Eph. 6 Satan blinds – don't want to see our depravity
- Blindspot – need God to open our eyes
- Acts 13:44-45, jealousy concerning who has source of knowledge (knowledge comes with power, their knowledge served their own ends)

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Habakkuk 1:5-11

Failure to see God rightly concerning judgment leads to self-righteous judgment of others and looking to God to eliminate our fears rather than looking to Him to speak truth to us IN our fears.

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Failure to see God rightly concerning judgment leads to self-righteous judgment of others and looking to God to eliminate our fears rather than looking to Him to speak truth to us IN our fears.

Failure to listen to God through His appointed means leads to lying about God and His will, misleading yourself and others.

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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 5:12

“They have healed the brokenness of My people superficially, Saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ But there is no peace. Jeremiah 6:14

“Behold, you are trusting in deceptive words to no avail. 9 “Will you steal, murder, and commit adultery and swear falsely, and offer sacrifices to Baal and walk after other gods that you have not known, 10 then come and stand before Me in this house, which is called by My name, and say, ‘We are delivered!’—that you may do all these abominations?

Jeremiah 7:8–10

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“They heal the brokenness of the daughter of My people superficially, Saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ But there is no peace. 12 “Were they ashamed because of the abomination they had done? They certainly were not ashamed, And they did not know how to blush; Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time of their punishment they shall be brought down,” Says the LORD. Jeremiah 8:11–12

The kings of the earth did not believe, Nor did any of the inhabitants of the world, That the adversary and the enemy Could enter the gates of Jerusalem.

Lamentations 4:12

What purpose do the Matthew 6:25-32 illustrations serve in helping us obey Matthew 6:24 and 6:33?

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Thus says the LORD, “Behold, a people is coming from the north land,
And a great nation will be aroused from the remote parts of the earth.
23 “They seize bow and spear; They are cruel and have no mercy; Their
voice roars like the sea, And they ride on horses, Arrayed as a man for
the battle Against you, O daughter of Zion!” 30 They call them rejected
silver, Because the LORD has rejected them.

Jeremiah 6:22–23, 30

God's Astonishing Answer to Injustice Pt. 2 Habakkuk 1:5-11

We ALL know that pride is dangerous and that we are not the final word, yet how do we end up even as professing Christians being our own authority (their justice and authority originate with themselves)?

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Habakkuk 1:5-11

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.

Galatians 5:13

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"Impress the young convert from the very beginning with the conviction that God has called him into His kingdom to struggle with the corruptions of his heart."

William B. Sprague

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"Neither be idle in the means, nor make an idol of the means."

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"Means must be neither trusted nor neglected."

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"There are no men more careful of the use of means than those that are surest of a good issue and conclusion, for the one stirs up diligence in the other. Assurance of the end stirs up diligence in the means. For the soul of a believing Christian knows that God has decreed both." Richard Sibbes

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"The Christian's life should put his minister's sermon in print." William Gurnall

Bringing Injustice Before God Pt. 4

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

A mature faith is one that both sees the issues at hand and yet remains steadfast, living in light of God's providence.