

The Work of Faith

Habakkuk 1:12-17, CBC March 20, 2024 Great is Thy Faithfulness

Habakkuk pours out heart bringing injustice b/r God **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's Astonishing Answer to Injustice **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 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 Lesson 1: 1. There is more than you can see. Trust the One who sees all.** Will U join Habakkuk and do work required to see what He wants us to see by calling to God and studying His revelation to us; This shows faith in calling to One who sees more, sees all, **but more involved in the work of faith;** couple of weeks ago, one noted that even when hear it, know it, believe it, sometimes takes time to get to heart—Habakkuk asked **WHEN, WHY** not answer; **NOW takes new pieces of God's answer and holds them against what He knows about God;** seems some time had elapsed and Chaldeans have begun their invasion (one says after 605 when Nebuchadnezzar defeated Egypt, rest of Assyrian Empire); When something doesn't seem to fit—must look again at object of faith—yes, questions, but start with assumptions

I. Includes Examining the Object of Your Faith in Light of Current Circumstances. vv. 12-13

12 **Are You not from everlasting, O LORD, my God, my Holy One?** You are eternal God—not merely God (Elohim—the Powerful Creator), but covenant God, Yahweh, Jehovah **my God, my Holy One?** See Him stating facts that all Jews would say; right at core of their identity; **Deut. 33:27-28** Song of Moses, Ex. 3:14 I am who I am, tied to covenant name of God—Yahweh, Jehovah—already said this is God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob Ex. 3:6; but came as covenant God—their God, promises to THEM; This brings to mind promises to patriarchs—**Gen. 17:2-8, 26:3-5, 28:13-15**, to Israel **Ex. 3:3-15, 14:1-6, Deut. 7:6, 14:1-2, 26:16-18**, to house of David **II Sam. 7:12-16** As such, if this true, than I can call to you because **We will not die.** (some discrepancy here—might be YOU will not die—referring to eternality of God as at beginning of verse, but scribes so concerned about impossibility of God dying that changed to we will not die—this a derivative of first—if God were to die/NOT from everlasting, then they would be defeated) **the impossibility of God to die—HE IS FROM EVERLASTING** means that there will always be a remnant or the rest of Your words can't come true; other times of faltering faith, and You were true to Your word; therefore, they CAN'T annihilate us like it seems they will do; **You, O LORD, have appointed them to judge; And You, O Rock, have established them to correct.** Therefore must be like **II Sam. 7:14** if descendents of David disobeyed; Rock common OT description of God **Ps. 18:2, Deut. 32:4,18, Ps. 19:14**, think what have if God a Rock? Stability, can count on it to hold, source, place of refuge; continues w God's character—this is source of problem **My Holy One 13 Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, And You can not look on wickedness with favor.** Holy God (other than man), but other nations had gods "other than" mankind; Isaiah/ others spoke of perfect morality when talking of holiness; think Leviticus—purification laws to cleanse selves from contact w impurity—but cleanness of heart needed to be w holy God; **Ps. 51:7, Ezek 36:25-27**, think Hebrews of Jesus as purification for sins Heb. 1:3, 9:14; **THESE truths about God stand in face of what seems to be taking place; eyes too pure** (can not even stay on evil, let alone participate in it—eyes see b/r act; **Why do You look with favor On those who deal treacherously? Problem 1:** in order to use them, must look at them; make things go right for them instead of crush wickedness; what am I seeing wrong about you—I know this about your character; yet you are exalting those who stomp on that part of your character; Contrast w Jer. 27 where sign of trusting Lord would be to get in line and **surrender to Nebuchadnezzar as "servant of Yahweh" Rudolph in Bailey Why are You silent when the wicked swallow up Those more righteous than they? Problem 2:** what will happen to Your people if they are not disciplined, but swallowed up? Northern tribes have been wiped out by Assyria! King Hezekiah pled with God as Sennacherib of Assyria came against Jerusalem; **II Kings 19:25; Is. 37:26; remember Micah 5:1-2 ruler coming from Bethlehem whose goings forth from everlasting; this seems to be working against your stated purposes! Where Habakkuk sits, it looks bleak, will get bleaker as finish this chapter, then go through next; still comes to God!** Robertson notes that Habakkuk's not a weak faith, but a perplexed faith; sees God's hand in it as He has answered first lament in vv. 1-4 God you DO bring justice and correction through whomever you wish, but THIS violent, wicked nation? **Speaks from what can see as watching Chaldeans destroy, swallow up;** "Those who see only the short term always miss the significance of the work of God." Bailey p. 314 **what makes us see only the short term?** b/c can only see there; b/c we have limits being finite—now we see in mirror dimly; b/c only want to look there; b/c afraid; **Where should we look to examine Object of our faith in light of current circumstances?** Call to God like Habakkuk showing He sees all, not us, but then rehearse what have seen, believe; Start with what see—what about God addresses that? Then look for what has said, given, done; **pillars of faith come from experience—Deut. 6, also stones from Jordan—VERY earthly words and actions;**

why we went to Billy Graham Center in Charlotte—need to go back; also why went to conference in general—**proud** to have church represented—NOT MERELY pastors AT a pastor’s conference—snapshot of American Christianity in healthy expression; **why want you to not merely to read, study—but LIVE**—II Tim. 1:5, II Tim. 2:21ff. cleanses himself from these things, vessel for honor, Now flee these things; wrestling with individuals, your household, yourself under God, under Word, but not easy to play out all; **write down or verbalize God’s character, principles with regards to your current situations** (mom—yes/no under God) here, Habakkuk talks through assumptions

Exodus 17:6 “Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.” And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

Deuteronomy 32:4, 18 “The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He. 18 “You neglected the Rock who begot you, And forgot the God who gave you birth.

Deuteronomy 33:27–28 “The eternal God is a dwelling place, And underneath are the everlasting arms; And He drove out the enemy from before you, And said, ‘Destroy!’ 28 “So Israel dwells in security, The fountain of Jacob secluded, In a land of grain and new wine; His heavens also drop down dew.

2 Samuel 7:14 “I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men.

Psalm 18:2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Psalm 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.

Psalm 51:7 Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

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.

Ezekiel 36:25–27 “Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. 26 “Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 “I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

1 Corinthians 10:1–4 For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; 3 and all ate the same spiritual food; 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.

1 Peter 2:6–8 For this is contained in Scripture: “BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.” 7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, “THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone,” 8 and, “A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE”; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.

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.