

## God's Astonishing Answer to Injustice Pt. 5

Habakkuk 1:5-11, CBC March 6, 2024 **Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal**

6-7 Good Friday, Luke/Micah B-day, turn to Lamentations 1 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 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.** **Asked what** keeps people from fully trusting college freshman, students in general, young adults? they assume they see; at times, rightly resent b/c maybe different than norm, seeing something that those older not trained to see; **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; why look where there is nothing that seems to bring hope/life? **pride and fears leave us trusting own tests for way to live rather than trust another who says they are seeing something different;** shows in our defensiveness and keeping own counsel (VERY selective with whom we open up to and let cross us, don't give people chance to reevaluate us when think "their way didn't work"/retreat to 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; **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--**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** **you have good mind, I do as well; all need eyes opened**—all in here probably wish other's would see something you see; all disagree w something in here—even when agree on problem, different focus w solution—but there is more; **Look, Observe—****who will you let say this to you? God?** **ARE YOU SEEING WHAT HE WANTS YOU TO SEE?** Willing to do work for that? **YES,** through our mind, **NO,** not get all at once, but are we making most of time/resources God ordains so we mature spiritually—**look farther, trust and obey regardless?** **Get** on my kids who accuse me of going long for devotions—so distracted! EVERYTHING more interesting—cracking knuckles, kicking under table, labels on jars, people outside, body noises, stories that perhaps start relevant but quickly stray; (**Ansley watched, listened—said, this why my parents gave up**) must struggle to fight distractions—Looking for Puritan quote that heard, couldn't find, but found these; "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 (ie. **Tell** you rough times in family life—family devotion struggles, etc. so don't think all rosy, **but I do this at family's expense—they ARE responding,** VERY thankful even as we struggle in the moments—this is normal—told my family that devotions extra long b/c running out of time and VERY concerned as everyone and everything will tear at everything said about God, told YG-- youth group responding/joy to interact w 9 even as can tell you where concerned for each of them, tell SS, YOU are responding as a group even as dire concerns for some of you and ache for wishing that could see more/hunger more NOW; not everything can be long (my college kids, just a couple words, conversations, most of you—just a couple words, conversations) **WE MUST be intentional w His means of growing in fear of Lord—NEED** life of prayer as recognize all that battle OR will be fighting in own strength—**Eph. 6—****therefore, not just praying myself in family devotions, but asking them to pray about what we've read/studied**—love my wife/kids even as I seek to love and care for you and yours); **MUST BE INTENTIONAL** if would weaken "your own understanding"/trusting your own heart "Neither be idle in the means, nor make an idol of the means." -WILLIAM SECKER "Means must be neither trusted nor neglected." -JOHN TRAPP **Heb. 1:1-2, II Pet. 1:19-21** **not optional/just for those it works—if don't learn to read/pray/grow WITH the saints, missing what God giving to know who He is and how we can see what we wouldn't believe if He told us;** many helpful books, but Habits of Grace large help—Word, Prayer, Fellowship of Saints—**how doing? How many working with and deeper into your soul? WHO? and why them and not others?** right/wrong reasons for building relationships—chief is relationship w God—if know should, but aren't, only feel guilt when talk about more of where should be heading, then remember "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 **Look to sow eternal treasures, don't just look at failure, look for what makes them a treasure and will pursue more willingly—****will be excited at little steps;** learn to listen, meditate on God's Word, seek His heart—**THIS will make you not so dependent on preacher for only growth, but HUNGRY for every tidbit preacher brings b/c LIVE by God's Word;** sobering quote "The Christian's life should put his minister's sermon in print." -WILLIAM GURNALL are you fighting to make use of means that prove YOU and your thoughts are not the final determiner of your life? personal meditation on God's Word, prayer; family time, church time **CENTERED** on Word, prayer, song from those trained

in ways most of us not, those responsible for more pieces than most? What crosses your mind as you think about what is involved with growing in the fear of the Lord and looking/observing to see His hand at work? God, help us be willing like Habakkuk to call to One who sees more than us—do work required to grow in faith that sees what He wants us to see; **Lesson 2: You are His, not yours. Therefore see all circumstances as coming from under His hand.**

**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.

**Hebrews 1:1–2 (NASB95)** God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

**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.

**2 Peter 1:19–21** So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. 20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

**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.