

# The Work of Faith Pt. 2

Habakkuk 1:12-2:3, Wednesday, April 4, 2024

# The Work of Faith Pt. 2

Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

## Bringing Injustice Before God

- 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.

# The Work of Faith Pt. 2

## Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

### God's Astonishing Answer

I. Pay attention and you will see my work.

# The Work of Faith Pt. 2

Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

## God's Astonishing Answer:

- I. Pay attention and you will see my work.
- II. Study the object of My work to learn more of My ways.
- III. Trust My Word to bring justice to all.

# **The Work of Faith Pt. 2**

**Habakkuk 1:12-2:3**

- I. Includes Examining the Object of Your Faith in Light of Current Circumstances. Vv. 12-17**

# The Work of Faith Pt. 2

Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

“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.

Deuteronomy 33:27–28

God said to Moses, “**I AM WHO I AM**”; and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘**I AM** has sent me to you.’ ” 15 God, furthermore, said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘**The LORD**, the **God** of your fathers, the **God** of Abraham, the **God** of Isaac, and the **God** of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ **This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations.** Exodus 3:14–15

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

# The Work of Faith Pt. 2

Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

“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,**

2 Samuel 7:14

# The Work of Faith Pt. 2

Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

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 18:2

“**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 32:4, 18

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 19:14



# The Work of Faith Pt. 2

Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

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

Psalm 51:7

“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.

Ezekiel 36:25–27

## Which parts of God's character seem to be at stake here?

- Providence (how can a Holy God rule through an evil tool?)
- Protection/Deliverance for His people
- His justice
- His covenant (this is their Lord, this is their future existence)
- His lack of action, questions His care and life
- Unreasonable favoritism

# The Work of Faith Pt. 2

Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

**Be gracious to me, O LORD;** See my affliction from those who hate me, You who lift me up from the gates of death, 14 **That I may tell of all Your praises, That** in the gates of the daughter of Zion **I may rejoice in Your salvation.**

Psalm 9:13–14

**For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.**

**Romans 1:25**

# The Work of Faith Pt. 2

Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

- I. Includes Examining the Object of Your Faith in Light of Current Circumstances. vv. 12-17
- II. Includes Preparation for a Response from God 2:1

## What dangers do you see that Habakkuk (you/I) must avoid in the work of faith when confronted with seeming incompatibility between your knowledge of God and the present happenings?

- Giving up
- Allowing current reality to eclipse what's said and done before you and others
- Discounting what we know about God but also in thinking that we know all involved in what we know
- Because we don't understand, thinking He won't answer
- Thinking that he/we are main characters in the story
- Writing our own story

## What dangers do you see that Habakkuk (you/I) must avoid in the work of faith when confronted with seeming incompatibility between your knowledge of God and the present happenings?

- Forget God and His promises
- What we see is all there is
- We are in center, then language of mistrust, deceived me and we start answering final questions (why is evil) Ps. 84:11, Rom. 8:28
- “Work of faith becomes shaky”
- To move out from realm of God with questions – destroying the structure God gave for these very situations

The Work of Faith Pt. 2 Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

**What does Habakkuk 2:1 include in the work of faith and what is required to do this work?**

# The Work of Faith Pt. 2

Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

Surely the Lord GOD does nothing Unless He reveals His secret counsel To His servants the prophets.

Amos 3:7

“But who has stood in the council of the LORD, That he should see and hear His word? Who has given heed to His word and listened?

Jeremiah 23:18



The Work of Faith Pt. 2 Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

**Why must a prophet wait for God's word and prepare for how to respond to it?**

# The Work of Faith Pt. 2

Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen; All day and all night they will never keep silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest for yourselves; 7 And give Him no rest until He establishes And makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

Isaiah 62:6–7

# The Work of Faith Pt. 2

## Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

“Son of man, I have appointed you a watchman to the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from My mouth, **warn them from Me.** 18 “When I say to the wicked, ‘You will surely die,’ **and you do not warn him** or speak out to warn the wicked from his wicked way that he may live, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but **his blood I will require at your hand.** 19 “**Yet if you have warned the wicked and he does not turn from his wickedness or from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered yourself.** 20 “Again, when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I place an obstacle before him, he will die; since you have not warned him, he shall die in his sin, and his righteous deeds which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand. 21 “**However, if you have warned the righteous man that the righteous should not sin and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; and you have delivered yourself.”**

Ezekiel 3:17–21 New American Standard Bible : 1995 update. 1995. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

# The Work of Faith Pt. 2

Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

Habakkuk needed “to know how to respond to God’s ways, both in his assessment of injustice and in his conduct amid the consequences of injustice. He revealed a mature wisdom in his determination that this response be shaped by what God himself would say. It is a wise man who takes his questions about God to God for the answers.”

Carl E. Amerding *EBC*

The Work of Faith Pt. 2 Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

**What would be required to get our answers to our questions about God from God?**

# The Work of Faith Pt. 2

Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. 15 But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. 16 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:14–16

The Work of Faith Pt. 2 Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

**What do you wish your children would do in their response to you when they don't understand or when things seem unlivable or unfair?**

## What narrows our gaze to the short term?

- Desire for immediate relief
- Busy – too much at once
- Gratification (joy & hope in life)
- Current circumstances loom large – hard to see beyond
- Fear
- Long term is usually something positive if negative, overwhelms because can't control
- Need to do this before that – breaking the big scary things into smaller “manageable” parts
- Values determine short term focus
- Not ready to die
- Something large like war/death



## Where should we start to look if we would examine our faith in God in light of current circumstances?

- How God has already proven Himself to us from eternity past
- Look to the Word – promises God has made to His people and how they have been shown
- How we are responding to present circumstances (emotions, mission)
- Is God our Rock, is Christ our head – sufficient
- What does He expect from me in current situation

## Lessons About Faith

1. There is more than you can see. Trust the One who sees all.
2. You are not in control over all circumstances, God is. Trust that God personally works to undergird and protect His own.

# The Work of Faith Pt. 2

Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

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;

1 Peter 4:12

# The Work of Faith Pt. 2

Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

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.

Lamentations 5:21–22

# The Work of Faith Pt. 2

Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

“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. Exodus 17:6

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And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. Exodus 17:6

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 Corinthians 10:1–4

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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 2:6–8

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

# Bringing Injustice Before God Pt. 5

Habakkuk 1:2-4

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



## Lessons About Faith

1. There is more than you can see. Trust the One who sees all.
2. You are His, not yours. See ALL circumstances as coming from under His hand.
3. Those who turn to God in suffering/injustice and continue to trust/obey Him will be rewarded.

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

# The Work of Faith Pt. 2

Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

'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." '

Luke 12:19

# The Work of Faith Pt. 2

Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

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.

1 Peter 4:12–13

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‘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. Revelation 2:10