

# The Work of Faith Pt. 3

Habakkuk 1:12-2:3, Wednesday, April 10, 2024

# The Work of Faith Pt. 3

Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

## God's Astonishing Answer

I. Pay attention and you will see my work.

# The Work of Faith Pt. 3

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. 3**

**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. 3

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. 3

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. 3

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

## 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. 3

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
- 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. 3

Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

“Habakkuk has two alternatives now. ‘ He can allow his doubts to be either destructive or creative. He can use his doubts, struggles, and agonizing questions to turn from God and to renounce his faith. Or he can keep his hold on God, trusting him for an answer.’”

J. N. Boo Heflin in Waylon Bailey NAC Commentary

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

- Keep Watch – waiting
- Stop speaking in order to listen
- Steadfast in trust in God (stayed in his role) while waiting
- There will be a correct judgment when God speaks
- Active alertness (work of watching and preparing for response)
- Value to goal of waiting (shows value of relationship with God & His will)
- Work to see above & beyond and discipline to maintain post
- Heb. 11:6 He is, and He rewards those who seek Him (fear God)
- Wrestling & waiting (two seem opposed)
- Believes God will respond
- Ps. 32:8-9 positive and negative instruction of yielding to God's training

# The Work of Faith Pt. 3

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

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

- Spokesmen for God, so must get what He says
- Not just about quick answer – God speaking to heart – part of waiting is to create right posture to receive God's word
- To keep us from presuming on God's response
- To quiet other voices and to weaken other influences
- Ez. 2 – asked to say and do hard things (the people won't listen but still must speak)
- Because God's sovereignty (His ways not our ways) if don't wait, then not yielding to His sovereignty - What does waiting include? Continuing under His reign with rest of those implications
- Prepare for and answer to be different than what we want it to be – What does that include?

# The Work of Faith Pt. 3

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. 3

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



# The Work of Faith Pt. 3

Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls. 13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:7–9, 13

# The Work of Faith Pt. 3

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*

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

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# The Work of Faith Pt. 3

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

**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?**

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# The Work of Faith Pt. 3

## Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

And turning His gaze toward His disciples, He began to say, “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 21 “Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. 22 “Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man. 23 “Be glad in that day and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. For in the same way their fathers used to treat the prophets. 24 “But woe to you who are rich, for you are receiving your comfort in full. 25 “Woe to you who are well-fed now, for you shall be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. 26 “Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for their fathers used to treat the false prophets in the same way. 27 “But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. **Luke 6:20–28**

## Lessons About Faith

1. There is more than you can see. Trust the One who sees all.
2. Neither you nor they are in control over circumstances. God is. Trust that God personally works to undergird and protect His own.

# The Work of Faith Pt. 3

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



# 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.

## 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

# The Work of Faith Pt. 3

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. 3

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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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.

## 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. 3

## 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

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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