

The Work of Faith Pt. 6

Habakkuk 1:12-2:3, Wednesday, May 8, 2024

The Work of Faith Pt. 6

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.

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

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

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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

The Work of Faith Pt. 6

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

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

Habakkuk “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?

1. Sit in and under God's Word WHILE in affliction/pressured.

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It is good for me that I was afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.

Psalms 119:71

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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

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?

- Listen, trust, and do
- Trust that I am working for their flourishing, not demise.
- Another perspective, another person with pressure, another need.
- There's more and I might have some of that more.
- Not create massive scheme based only on their reality
- Initiate dialogue rather than shut down
- Talking from prosecutor position or disgruntled employee.
- Not see whole mountain of problems as a whole responsibility apart from provision and wisdom
- Look through another's eyes including another role with more responsibility than you have

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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**

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

1. Sit in and under God's Word WHILE in affliction/pressured.
2. Widen your circle to include others under God.

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

“The prophet is right in the position he takes with respect to his own role in the resolution of this perplexing issue. He will not attempt to reconcile in his own mind the apparent contradiction between the election of Israel by God as the object of his special love and the devastation of Israel at the hands of the rapacious Chaldeans as ordered by the Lord himself. He will not resort to the resources of human wisdom. Instead, he will watch for an answer that can come only from the Lord”

O. Palmer Robertson

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 God to undergird and glorify Himself through you by continuing to work and worship while you wait for His answers.**

What keeps us from continuing to work and worship while we do the work of waiting for His answers?

- Obsess over situation so there is no more room for the rest of what God is doing
- Needing all of the answers before continuing – meaning that our living is based on our understanding before we continue
- 1 John 1 - what we have heard, seen, we make known – meaning that there are certainties and tasks while there are uncertainties.
- Loss of God's basic character and desires (frozen because all depends on us OR afraid will do "wrong")
- Far from where we started when we came to Christ, meaning we're forgetting impossibility of us even receiving anything good from God (i.e. Repentant prodigal son)
- Perhaps not knowing what work IS when God brings great change.
- We don't want to let go of not having the answer
- Our hearts can be divided (distracted by competing values that fight against the sufficiency of God)
- Peace of God is part of sovereign will (His moral will is revealed which is not always valued) therefore let your request be made known Phil. 4:6

What keeps us from continuing to work and worship while we do the work of waiting for His answers?

- Desire for better working conditions shows that God is not present and providing which would enable work in all conditions including uncertainty
- FOMO- Fear of missing out
- Failing to do what we know God values
- Listening to poor counsel (what is your rubric for assessing counsel?)
- Is God good? Can I trust Him? These questions seem to rise above rest in slowing down our obedience- part of the answer is continuing with work and worship in place where God proves His goodness/trustworthiness

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

“All, then, who indulge themselves in their own counsels, deserve to be forsaken by God, and to be left by him to be driven up and down, and here and there, by Satan; for the only unfailing security for the faithful is to acquiesce in God’s word.”

John Calvin

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 - A. Your obedience to God’s Word affects other’s faithfulness to God’s Word both now and in the future.**

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

“You shall write on the stones all the words of this law very distinctly.”
Deuteronomy 27:8

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 - A. Your obedience to God's Word affects other's faithfulness to God's Word both now and in the future.
 - B. Your obedience includes waiting with expectancy and continued obedience.

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

“One of the wonders of Habakkuk’s message is the engagement of God with his people. He answered Habakkuk. God dealt with the prophet’s complaints and answered his concerns but in an unexpected way. He began with an imperative, not an indicative, a command to the prophet, not a word for the prophet. Like Job, Habakkuk seemed content that the God of the heavens is concerned with his people and answers from heaven. God’s second response is more than an indication of concern; it is the answer for the ages. God is faithful and calls for faithfulness on the part of his people. Still, the answer does not yet address the prophetic questions, just as God’s answers never addressed Job’s issues.”

Waylon Bailey

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

“Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,” says the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:1

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Malachi 3:1

FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE, HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY. 38 BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.

Hebrews 10:37–38

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, 11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. 12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.

1 Peter 1:10–12

The Work of Faith Pt. 6 Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

The prophets had a clear assignment. What is our job in relationship to the work of preserving and heralding God's Word?

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. 9 For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 1:8–10

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5 For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:3–5

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Bringing Injustice Before God Pt. 6

Habakkuk 1:2-4

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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.

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