

The Work of Faith Pt. 6

Habakkuk 2:1-3, CBC May 8, 2024

First issue—why injustice, wickedness unpunished among your people—when will you act **I. Pay attention and you will see my work** **II. Study the object of My work to learn more of My ways** Chaldeans, not where you are looking, be astonished, but **III. Trust My Word to Bring Justice to All**, seems time elapsed, Chaldeans have begun their invasion; in vv. 12-17, Habakkuk once again comes before God w happenings seemingly incompatible w what knows about God **I. The Work of Faith Includes Examining the Object of Your Faith in Light of Current Circumstances.** vv. 12-17 **12 Are You not from everlasting, O LORD, covenant God, Yahweh, Jehovah; my God, Elohim—the Powerful Creator, my Holy One, We will not die, You, O LORD, have appointed them to judge; And You, O Rock, have established them to correct. Rock Problem 1:** in order to use them, must look at them; **13 Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, And You can not look on wickedness with favor. Why do You look with favor On those who deal treacherously?** take credit instead of giving it to you; they rejoice and are glad. **16 Therefore they offer a sacrifice to their net and burn incense to their fishing net; Because through these things their catch is large, And their food is plentiful.** treat people as less than human, like animals, like creatures of land or sea **17 Will they therefore empty their net And continually slay nations without sparing? Problem 2:** what will happen to Your people if they are not disciplined, but swallowed up by ones you say are YOUR tool? **looks bleak:** “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 Bailey verse 1 gives us answer—more WORK of faith **II. The Work of Faith Includes Preparation for a Response from God 2:1** **I I will stand on my guard post And station myself on the rampart; And I will keep watch to see what He will speak to me, And how I may reply when I am reproved.** even prophet couldn’t force God to speak, he must go to work of watching, must be alert, keen eye—intentional work to “concentrate specifically on God and what God would say when God decided to speak.” Bailey, p. 320; Habakkuk “revealed a mature wisdom in his determination that this response by shaped by what God himself would say. It is a wise man who takes his questions about God to God for the answers.” Amerding EBC, P. 509; **this would require?** **1. Sit in and under God’s Word WHILE in affliction/pressured; Ps. 119:71** (You are Lord NOT when atrocities gone, but IN them AND working; therefore learn Word of God IN/UNDER pressure, not all time, but intentionally when HAVE no time—10 minutes, half hour?) Collect what know about God and why sure true; what has God said? To whom? What is your relationship with the promise? steady **habits of grace--sitting under Word; reverent prayer**—b/c dependent on Spirit of God for illumination; comes from posture of relationship, **1 Pet. 1:7-9, 13 hope where? THERE Col. 3:1ff.** where Christ is—**where treasure, heart also Matt. 6:21; do you look to God through Christ for satisfaction, reward, approval?** Is your relationship w Jesus most important—daily following Him, consciously yielding to Spirit of God, then it will be natural to look there when hit wall down here & expect that God who controls all has something for you even then—this is Habakkuk’s disposition—lives standing/waiting w eyes toward heaven—role (humility) staying in our place—created under Creator; servant under Master, child under parent; **What do you wish your children would do when don’t understand, things unlivable, unfair? Do you have the heart you wish was in your children?** must trust that what you see/think you need NOT always accurate, in fact, may take you away from God; **Lk. 6:20-28;** you do not learn alone; process alone; fly with the saints; **2. Widen your circle—to others under God; your experience and life of faith includes identity with those before you—are you of the line of Cain or Seth**—men began to call upon God; line of Eber that goes through Joktan OR Peleg; If God is eternal, than looking back to promises and acts shown to those before helps give a trajectory for future faithfulness in following Christ by turning from sin of unbelief—reason for striving; therefore, join the others who call in pain and faith; **Ps. 130—Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice! Figuring out and crying to God not merely alone, but in community is faith lived as God intended—it’s on display LIVING STONES I Pet. 2.** will learn patience/perseverance when roles fixed; Robertson, p. 165 “The prophet is right in the position he takes w 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” Pr. 3:5-6 **Lesson 2: Neither you nor they are in control over circumstances. God is. Trust God to undergird His own and glorify Himself through you by continuing to work and worship while you wait for His answers. say I already believe all that, BUT . . . I can’t find light—What keeps us from continuing to work and worship while do work of waiting for His answers?** Other exits that sound like God’s will (ie. People issues; heaven seen through culture’s desires; **how much do you think** you are influenced by own desires or culture around you even as say follow God’s Word? **ever watched your** children try to “break free” from you (feeling like not always dishonoring, but not concerned about what you are concerned about)? When fellowship with God not paramount, then knowing Him, learning more of Him stunted—He is assumed/underwhelming; there is little curiosity of just Him that leads to love, worship, and more study; **would it be wrong for your children to seek to know you better?** To be curious about what makes you you? they often don’t, **our children break free from us only to be chained to the culture they want to be a part of;** we often don’t with God or others over/around us; must acknowledge that we’ve been more influenced by our own desires, susceptible to culture’s offerings more than we think;—Calvin, “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.” P. 62 contra v. 12 as problem eats away at Habakkuk and questions form, **Speaks from what can see as watching Chaldeans destroy, swallow up; where does he turn?** To the One who has the experience and who sees beyond—outside of time; remember? “Those who see only the short term always miss the significance of the work of God.” Bailey p. 314 **Are you not from Everlasting? O Lord, My God, my holy One, we will not die job? stay on the wall** (ie. First job—Tony Ferraro—I’ll be back, throw rocks—until when? when he comes back) **A mature faith is one that both sees the issues at hand and yet remains steadfast, living in light of God’s providence.** THIS is Habakkuk’s posture—took work to get that posture and to maintain it

III. The Work of Faith Includes Responding to His Word with Willing Obedience

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

b/c prepared, ready for answer—expected answer! when answer came, HEARD and ready to do—do what? **2 Then the LORD answered me and said, “Record the vision And inscribe it on tablets,** (make it plain **Deut. 27:8,** same word as for tablets in 10 commandments) **That the one who reads it may run.** Whatever answer Habakkuk gets is not merely for him, but called to pass it on to THEM; phrase hard to follow (literally “in order that he will (or may) run the one reading it”) either passer by, and informally pass it on, OR herald, proclaimer) **but must be preserved b/c not just for him/them, but must pass down through future;** this message is of great hope/life if when hear it, run--must be GREAT message of hope/life to those discouraged by harsh treatment by Babylonians and bleak future ahead; therefore write it down! THIS message must be heard/spread

B. Your Obedience Includes Waiting with Expectancy and Continued Obedience

3 “For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens (breathe, blow, pants) toward the goal and it will not fail. (or prove false) Though it tarries, wait for it; here, goal is time when Babylonian oppression over, in Daniel, end speaks of end of world; Call it out 70 years out—long time, hard time 3:16; what prepares him to do this? Expected God’s answer in line with His eternal character; therefore, though feel pressure now, want answer now as prophet had to answer people or they lose faith (ie. Saul—I had to sacrifice b/c people leaving), content to wait; “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 expected 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.” Bailey, p. 322 God’s answer dealt w impatience of those who can’t wait any longer; God is working AND the pieces you look for WILL COME in God’s time-- Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, (LXX the coming One will come; Mal. 3:1, Heb. 10:37-38 (Isaiah passage combined w Habakkuk—focusing on promises for those who continue/warnings for those who don’t—all centers around Lord’s 2nd coming; long delay at times between revelation and fulfillment (70 years—at least part of it); but that not long compared to I Pet. 1:10-12 Habakkuk to run these words everywhere to give foundation for the years ahead; it will not delay. (our side—tarries, heaven’s side—rushing to end); Prophets MUST speak, write--work of careful recording for future, but also work of faith so that give prophesy with fervency; Habakkuk seems to have clear job; prophets of old had clear job—what is our job in relationship to the work of preserving and heralding God’s Word?

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

Psalms 119:71 It is good for me that I was afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.

Malachi 3:1 “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.

Luke 6:20–28 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.

2 Corinthians 1:3–5 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.

1 Thessalonians 1:8–10 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.

Hebrews 10:37–38 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.

1 Peter 1:7–9, 13 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 1:10–12 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.