

The Work of Faith Pt. 7

Habakkuk 1:12-2:5, CBC May 15, 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, b/c of who You are, 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; **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. Problem 2:** what will happen to Your people if they are not disciplined, but swallowed up by ones you say are YOUR tool? **17 Will they therefore empty their net And continually slay nations without sparing?** 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** **1 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 be 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;** steady **habits of grace,** b/c dependent on Spirit of God for illumination, **sitting under Word/reverent prayer—comes from posture of relationship. 1 Pet. 1:7-9, 13** you do not learn alone; process alone; fly with the saints; **2. Widen your circle—to others under God; If God eternal, than looking back to promises and acts shown to those before helps give trajectory for future faithfulness in following Christ—reason for striving; join others who call in pain and faith; Ps. 130—Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; 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, That the one who reads it may run.;** (literally “in order that he will (or may) run the one reading it”) either passer by, and informally pass it on, OR herald, proclaimer; **must be preserved b/c not just for him/them, but must pass down through future;** if would encourage those broken down by harsh treatment of Babylonians and bleak future, MUST be message of great hope/life if run to spread it when hear it; **B. Your Obedience Includes Waiting with Expectancy and Continued Obedience 3 “For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens (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; Call it out 70 years out—long time, hard time 3:16; Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, long delay at times between revelation and fulfillment (70 years—at least part of it); that’s not long compared with the comings of Christ (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; 1 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? treasure it—talk of it; study II Tim. 2:15; grow; discern—gospel proclaimed—Jesus given, disciples/discipling Col. 1:28; lives loudly II Cor. 3:2-3—(ie. Josiah—did you read? Lost language helper—tried to extort money—behind w language study, can’t translate—what he wants to do; forgive, patience, Word dwell in him richly Col. 3:16 as Rom. 1:16 live the power of God for deliverance/eternal, then by Holy Spirit, ability to reflect glory of God—order my steps in Your Word--the time we have for other interests w/o growing curiosity to learn more of God’s Word and ways shows life/goodness/salvation found somewhere other than in relationship with God; contra I Thess. 1:8-10—moral behavior, service not rightly sourced in God if not characterized by relationship that looks w expectancy toward His return; Baker reminds us that God’s word unfolds in history—linear, NOT cyclical—heading toward Day of Judgment and establishment of God’s kingdom where He will reign w/o rival; but while pray for what see as bringing glory to God, fervency of Lk. 18, must not demand His answer NOW; While we must come to God with questions about His power and providence, what would show a lack of humility and impatience in our requests? [what would show we demanding His answer now]? Failure to pray; feeling justified in waning faith when “no answer” we SO about time—He so about eternity and HIS time II Peter 3—Lord not slow in keeping promises, but is patient (means someone has to sin against you until they repent) hear Jesus say look at fields, white to harvest—reapers are already gathering into barn, time is running out—beseech Lord of harvest to send out workers; Get preserved message out—this is all that matters! Newspaper boy on corner—extra!!! Bible comes alive! Started w promise to Adam/Eve, Noah, Abraham, prophets, fulfilled by Jesus; under new covenant, we who place trust in Him are saved to proclaim excellencies of the One who mercifully rescued rebellious, independent, overconfident You—when you read what has been inscribed, it should fill you not merely w answers, but w expectancy, purpose—If you know Habakkuk’s God, the God of the Bible, you will know Him as—El-Roi, the God who sees and has a plan, calling for you to be a part of it—it’s panting toward its end—and your circumstances are part of it—II Cor. 1:3-5 A mature faith is one that both sees the issues at hand and yet remains steadfast, living in light of God’s providence. Habakkuk’s posture; is it yours? But what is the message given? In part OR whole in v. 4**

IV. The Work of Faith perseveres based on the gaze of the soul. vv. 4-5

4 “Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; But the righteous will live by his faith. Answer given by God to be written is a contrast—2 peoples—proud one/righteous—where do you find yourself? What will you do about it?

Psalm 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 18:9-14 And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: 10 “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 “The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 ‘I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’ 13 “But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’ 14 “I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

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.

2 Corinthians 3:2–3 You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men; 3 being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

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.