

The Work of Faith Pt. 8

Habakkuk 1:12-2:5, CBC May 22, 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? 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.** 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; **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** **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; 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; 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—1 Pet. 1:10-12: 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 to run these words everywhere to give foundation for the years ahead; Habakkuk/prophets seems to have clear job—what is our job in relationship to the work of preserving and heralding God’s Word” we too must receive word AS word of God I Thess. 2:13—study, treasure, live it, b/c your life is living gospel **II Cor. 3:2-3, life, actions, relationships, goals shifted as result of receiving word w joy inside relationship w God living w expectancy of Jesus’ return and final Day will spread! I Thess. 1:8-10 herald it -Col. 1:28 We proclaim Him—This is Habakkuk’s God and His posture even as waits for destruction and judgment; now come to the message; 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?

A. The Proud One

v. 4 proud—puffed up, swelling, even tumorous, (tied to word used in I Sam. 5:6 for tumors Philistines got when took ark) **contrast--righteous--upright—straight live by his faith** (faith points outside yourself); **note that problem w this proud person in this verse is rooted in soul; soul not right** or upright—not in conformity with justice, custom, law, morality; (having deviated from the moral norm; **what bothers** us about people we think are proud? (external) interact or not, clear arguments or not—but somehow above, untouchable; move according to own rules/definitions/desires; so external points to assumptions of the heart—values that are not in line w justice/law; **though admit need humility, Why is it easy to recoil at being called proud?** b/c concerned that a club to silence us—stay away holding couple trump cards--they don’t know me, not arrogant if I’m right; I’m not responsible if I don’t see it your way; think you are putting it together wrongly; **soul not right—v. 5** prelude for 5 woes in next verses against oppressor by those being oppressed (taunt-song)—**all** of it **probably designed to be self-fulfilling prophecy Bruce; 5 “Furthermore, wine betrays the haughty man, dangers of intoxication throughout Scripture, see some of them in 2:15-16, but focus here seems to be on the spoils of victory—on getting what desire; drink b/c success, drink because safe—Chaldeans not worried about what happens when not in control of senses; freedom to not care and celebrate; but success NOT ENOUGH! insatiable appetite So that he does not stay at home. instead of getting to set up shop/live, always restless, antsy, looking for more of the feeling of celebration, being on top of the world, freedom from accountability—focused out there; He enlarges his appetite like Sheol, And he is like death, never satisfied. Sheol (underworld, hell—devours its prey) like the grave—grabs everyone, doesn’t let any go) --last couplet speaks of this attitude when comes to political conquest He also gathers to himself all nations And collects to himself all peoples. --see ties to intoxication—doing because enjoy, but element of weakness in lack of contentment, instability, awakening desires for more; b/m slave to it, need more and more & doesn’t give feeling want; makes other actions—impetuous, not thinking, careless treatment of others--Saw social injustices resulting from pursuing/taking at all costs; **haughty**—Babylonians (how does Babylon fall? Dan. 5:1-31) Habakkuk, any Jews who feared God cried to Him b/c of seeming silence b/c unrighteous ARE ruling, prospering, yet **implied by second phrase of this message is that these will NOT live—judged and found wanting; Babylon falls to Persia in 538 BC—just few more years;****

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.
1 Corinthians 2:2-5 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. 3 I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, 4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.
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 1:10-12 As for 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.