

The Work of Faith Pt. 9 Habakkuk 1:12-2:5, CBC May 29, 2024

Chaldeans seem to have begun their invasion; in vv. 12-17, though Habakkuk has received an answer from God about Judah's unpunished wickedness, he **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.** 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; intentional work to "concentrate specifically on God and what God would say when God decided to speak." Bailey, p. 320; **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. 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, it will not delay. heaven's side—rushing to end, our side, seems long time b/n revelation and fulfillment 70 years, but more for 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; Prophets MUST speak, write--work of careful recording for future, but also work of faith so that give prophesy with fervency—you too must BELIEVE what give—do work of faith **Waiting with Expectancy and Continued Obedience w what DO know/understand b/c of trustworthy source; IV. The Work of Faith perseveres based on the gaze of the soul.** vv. 4-5 Answer given by God to be written is a contrast—2 peoples **4 "Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; But the righteous will live by his faith. 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)—where do you find yourself? What will you do about it?****

A. The Proud One

note 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; **to tease out so can see depth of problem and root it from own hearts, what bothers us about people we think are proud?** Seems that whether interact w them or not, have clear arguments or not, somehow above, untouchable; move according to own rules/definitions/desires; **this external points to assumptions of the heart—values 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, so respond w couple of trump cards--they don't know me, not arrogant if I'm right, think you are putting it together wrongly; if you ARE right, I'm not responsible if I don't see it your way now; **soul not right—v. 5 prelude for 5 woes in next verses against oppressor by those being oppressed (taunt-song) 5 "Furthermore, wine betrays the haughty man, focus here seems to be on the spoils of victory—on getting what desire; drink b/c success, because safe—freedom to not care and celebrate; but success NOT ENOUGH! insatiable appetite So that he does not stay at home. instead of putting down roots (work/keep), always restless, antsy, looking for more of the feeling of conquest, top of the world, all done w/o accountability—focused out there; He enlarges his appetite like Sheol, And he is like death, never satisfied. Sheol (underworld) like the grave—grabs everyone, doesn't let any go) --last couplet speaks of same attitude when comes to political conquest He also gathers to himself all nations And collects to himself all peoples. --see ties to intoxication—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--social injustices resulting from pursuing/taking at all costs; for now, seems they are prospering, unstoppable, but implied by second phrase of this message is that these who can't be upright will NOT live—judged and found wanting (paraphrase Roberstone); Babylon falls to Persia in 538 BC—just few more years; wine betrays the haughty man—how does Babylon fall? Dan. 5:1-31; would promise of their fall b/c of pride bring you hope? Could you continue? Only 2 categories of people, Proud—SELF-RIGHTEOUS vs. the Righteous; **But the righteous will live by his faith.** while want to find ourselves in category of righteous, must acknowledge that **term for the proud is generic—**for ALL those not upright; for Habakkuk, meant included not only Chaldeans live by own resources, law **1:11, 15-16**, but also God's people, the Jews **1:4** perverting law; **If we would heed the message and continue with Habakkuk in the work of faith in God, what subtle roots of "the proud one" must we identify, confess, and eradicate?** Restless, captivated by other things than knowing character of One who IS righteous; preparing for what He has promised; seeking our own satisfaction outside of His kingdom goals; making heaven down here; demanding own justice from others/God NOW; **I Cor. 2:2-5** do you believe this? (good time w some pastors in Lancaster area—should we talk about politics in church? less talking about candidates, more talking about biblical categories (include social issues, political issues—not red/blue, but biblical issues—take discussion out of politics into humanity—how we handle pressures w those who disagree—how identify where gospel focuses—goals of gospel—what IS the kingdom of God, what is Jesus on the throne? Ben Miller pastor in Quarryville did series on Daniel—entitled "undivided allegiance to the indestructible kingdom of God") **where does your daily life show you are living for the indestructible kingdom of God?** but if would heed message and avoid "the proud one," must also root out defensiveness when give opinion/when others probe into our words/actions--consider how easy it is for us to say that want to adjust to what God says, **but often hard to hear adjustments from others, even when we say want correction;** Massive set of rules on how I take advice; **Path of faith runs much deeper than words you say you believe—it is the gaze of the heart—where are you looking? Lk. 18:9-14 can you pick out a couple of right/wrong assumptions—roots that reveal the gaze of the heart?****

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.”

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.

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.