

## The Work of Faith Pt. 12

Habakkuk 1:12-2:5, CBC June 19, 2024 381 Red Is Your All v. 1, 4

Chaldeans seem to have begun their invasion; though Habakkuk has received an answer from God about Judah's unpunished wickedness, in vv. 12-17, 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** **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. 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. **IV. The Work of Faith perseveres based on the gaze of the soul. vv. 4-5** Answer from God contrasts 2 peoples—**A. The Proud One** **4** "Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him: upright—standard judging himself/others not right; see how this plays out in v. 5 prelude for 5 woes against oppressor in next verses; warning/reminder for us--**Path of faith runs much deeper than words you say you believe—it is the gaze of the heart—where are you looking?** 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 **B. The Righteous One** **1. Lives by Faith** But the righteous—upright—straight will live by his faith. this message given to Habakkuk is the antidote to actions resulting from doubt, uncertainty, impatience, greed, and independence, **righteous, by his faithfulness (steadfastness) he will live** word speaks of reliability, stable, permanence, certainty, one established—all tied in word faith showing faith way of life—not looking to God and getting a "word"/rhema from Him when needed—**LIVING by His word**—your punishment predicted, Chaldeans tool, but there is more, both for the people of God and for eternity IN RELATIONSHIP with God; we've seen evidence of this gaze by Habakkuk; this message quoted 3 times in NT, James Boice notes, ...important part of the verse has only three words: "the justified man" (Who is he? What is justification?), "by his faith" (What is faith? How does it function?), and "will live" (What is the Christian life? How does one live before God?). Romans is our commentary on the justified man. Hebrews is our commentary on faith. Galatians is our commentary on the Christian life.<sup>1</sup> **Heb. 10:36-39** here, looking not merely for life after Chaldeans, looking for the Lord, "the Comer" will come/return; **righteous continue/live, persevering until Christ's return based on trusting God to keep His covenant promises** while proud give up patience and faith b/c promise is so long in being fulfilled—incur eternal ruin Bruce in McComiskey—how do they do this? How can they be considered righteous upright? upright b/c faith in/looking to One who is upright—faith's source **2. In the God of Righteousness** righteous in Gk. Is kissing cousin w what word? Justify—legal aspect); Robertson notes that righteousness in OT tied to idea of judicial standing—right and wrong to be settled by judge; people of God a covenant people, bound by solemn oath w life and death consequences centering on law dictated by Lord of covenant—everything hinged on legal decision of God of covenant **as people of God do, Habakkuk coming to God for justice**—God is righteous/source **Ps. 145:17**; if God righteous/Judge, then REAL problem not whether they righteous, but are YOU righteous—same standard indicts you; **when KNOW that SOUL not righteous b/c what comes to surface is not righteous, then need not only to look to the God of righteousness to continue, BUT look to God FOR righteousness needed to continue**; how can I be seen as righteous so focus is NOT on my performance, but based on truth—how can God make us righteous so we LIVE by faith in God; **Rom. 1:17--how b/m righteous IS the focus**—faith is means of sharing in righteousness of God allowing participation in the gospel; HE not only just, but only One who can justify—**this is gospel**; faith that looks to Him not only to continue, for instructions, for right/wrong, but for righteousness needed to claim these promises; **Rom. 3:21-26. 4:1-5; talking about a direction/gaze—that leads to Christ for justification, Christ for perseverance, Christ for righteousness instead of actions**—talking about kind of faith Calvin "that faith which strips us of all arrogance, and leads us naked and needy to God, that we may seek salvation from him alone, which would otherwise be far removed from us" (in Robertson, p. 181) remember **Man** is very apt to rest and dote upon his own worth and to build all his acceptance with God upon it—to come to God and challenge him for a debt, as the Pharisee did. It is very natural to rest in those duties and make them an excuse for other things. (Thomas Manton, A Practical Exposition of the Lord's Prayer) 18:13 **To** be at present in a state of condemnation is cause sufficient for men to come to Jesus Christ for life. But that will not do except the cause moves them, which it will never do until their eyes are opened to see themselves in that condition. For it is not a man's being under wrath but his seeing it that moves him to come to Jesus Christ. Alas! All men by sin are under wrath, yet but few of that all come to Jesus Christ. And the reason is that they do not see their condition. (John Bunyan, Come and Welcome to Jesus Christ) **is your daily faith in God one that looks for better life, to escape from hell, OR one that looks to God for righteousness that gives new standing w God**; same theme picked up in **Gal. 3:9-14**, yet very faith that causes us to look to Christ for standing with God instead of to our own performance w law leads us to walk by Spirit against desires of flesh 5:13ff.) while not based on works, **life lived looking for righteousness outside will show across life in obedience--Gen. 15:6** faith heart attitude/focus rather than focus on actions **Gen. 15:6**, shows NOT law in OT and grace in NT; o Abraham's faith (heart attitude/focus) led to righteous obedience **Gen. 22:1-2ff**—basis for **Jm. 2:21-24**, Habakkuk's message from God is that life comes from lifelong commitment of faith in God, not just one act; "Faith involves waiting for fulfillment and thus is always in danger of being shaken; therefore, steadiness and constancy are of its essence" p. 802 Commentary on NT Use of OT **We know this, but how can we live it? Simply, by not just looking to God, but seeing faith as submitting to His leadership**; "The righteous are also those whose lives correspond to God's leadership. The righteous are not perfect, but they do live according to their relationship with God. To be righteous means to meet the demands of a relationship." Bailey, p. 325 **what does this mean? How does this change the focus of our faith in God? What hope does this give us? Ps. 1, Ps. 15, need clear head to stay on top of all, these attitudes--in light of this, look at these I Thess. 5:4-11, Rom. 13:11-14; where do these passages focus our faith?** Behavior resulting from relationship with God through Christ and His provision to live in light of His power to save/deliver and keep those He loves; **this puts righteous actions in right place—result of relationship**; how get that relationship? Righteousness of God on basis of faith **Phil. 3:9** **how should this focus on faith in Habakkuk and its ramifications for understanding faith needed for salvation change our focus in evangelism—how we give the gospel?—where is this study corrective on our evangelism?** Focus not on getting people to make choice for God or for specific church (then manipulate, smooth out, try to show that we are like them, not weird, not the presence of walls of Christians who have a "good thing going," INSTEAD, Life-long commitment driven by eyes that are gripped more by the God of heaven and the rules of that relationship

<sup>1</sup> James Montgomery Boice, *The Minor Prophets: An Expositional Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2002), 409.

than by what is seen (no matter what others do, fair, kind, etc.) leaves us gazing at God, making much of Him instead of God making much of us; Gal. 2:20

**Conclusion:** Look at all we've learned about work of faith from Habakkuk so far; shows what faith looks like under pressure, uncertainty, doubt, questions—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 whole book full of this message “Faith in God was the key to consistent living, even though violence abounded and justice was perverted (1:2-4). That short statement helps believers to persevere even though God chastens them 1:5-11 and they cannot understand His ways (1:12-17). It provides a solution to the doubt they sometimes feel in His all-wise providence (2:1-3), and helps them to understand his righteous judgments (2:4-20). In the final analysis, faith provides the key to understanding the Lord's sovereign purpose, and it leads men to worship (3:1-19).” Waylon Bailey, p. 326 sum up? “The righteous person is the one who maintains loyalty to God in spite of all discouragement and continues to trust in him even when the outlook is most unpromising (as it was for Habakkuk). P. 861 FF Bruce in McComiskey A mature faith is one that both sees the issues at hand and yet remains steadfast, living in light of God's providence. what affect should this message have on our prayer meeting? are you loyal? Can you be counted on? steady? Predictable so others can plan based on your word, faithful? Do people see you looking to God and continuing when overwhelmed—focused on serving Him regardless of pressures? The culprit resides w/I you—desire for comfort, to be affirmed, seen as normal, to be in majority, to be free from accountability, to teach rather than be taught, to have all our fears eliminated—all making you sloppy & less useful for the cause of Christ; heed message recorded and handed down to us, and by faith, imitate Habakkuk's posture and come b/r One who is able Heb. 4:14-16

**Genesis 15:6** Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

**Genesis 22:1-2** Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” <sup>2</sup> He said, “Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.”

**Psalms 145:17** The LORD is righteous in all His ways And kind in all His deeds.

**Romans 1:17** For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”

**Romans 3:21-26** But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; <sup>25</sup> whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup> for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

**Romans 4:1-5** What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the Scripture say? “ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.” <sup>4</sup> Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. <sup>5</sup> But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,

**Romans 13:11-14** *Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. <sup>12</sup> The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. <sup>13</sup> Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.*

**Galatians 2:20** “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

**Galatians 3:9-14** So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer. <sup>10</sup> For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, “CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM.” <sup>11</sup> Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, “THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.” <sup>12</sup> However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, “HE WHO PRACTICES THEM SHALL LIVE BY THEM.” <sup>13</sup> Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, “CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE”—<sup>14</sup> in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

**Philippians 3:9** and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith,

**Hebrews 4:14-16** Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**Hebrews 10:36-39** For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. <sup>37</sup> FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE, HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY. <sup>38</sup> BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM. <sup>39</sup> But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

**James 2:21-24** Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? <sup>22</sup> You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; <sup>23</sup> and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS,” and he was called the friend of God. <sup>24</sup> You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.