

HABAKKUK'S COMPLAINT

HABAKKUK 1:1-11

4-7-24

I. CONTEXT

A. Habakkuk is in Judah (Southern Kingdom)

B. Serving under King Jehoiakim (Bad King)

Habakkuk 1:1-4 - "The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw. O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you 'Violence!' and you will not save? Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted."

C. Unique Format – Dialogue with God

II. PROBLEM

A. Widespread injustice

B. God's Law is numb

C. Habakkuk questions God – Why & how long?

D. Habakkuk's theology is impacted by his personal situation

III. PRAY THROUGH THE PROBLEM

A. Habakkuk assumes a posture of continual prayer

B. Prayer is an aid to us in suffering and pain

C. Habakkuk is honest with God

IV. WHEN GOD ANSWERS...

Habakkuk 1:5 - "Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told."

A. He communicates awareness and concern

Habakkuk 1:6 - "For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, who march through the breadth of the earth, to seize dwellings not their own."

B. It may not make perfect sense

C. He communicates His sovereignty

D. He accomplishes His plan, not ours!

Isaiah 55:8 - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD."

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think about the message this week? What stood out to you or challenged your thinking?
2. Have you ever read the book of Habakkuk before? After our first message, what intrigues you most about this book?
3. Have you ever experienced a difficult time of injustice and hardship like Habakkuk did? Did that situation deepen your trust in God or shake it?
4. Why is prayer so important in the midst of troubles and injustice?
5. For many, prayer does not feel natural in times of difficulty. How can we make prayer more natural to us in times of difficulty?
6. Have you ever felt like God gave you an answer that you didn't like? How did you resolve this issue?
7. How is a deeper understanding of God important for our prayer lives? How is a weak understanding of God a detriment to our prayer lives?

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT

- This week we are going to pray for our church plant Edinboro Community Church.
 - ECC just celebrated their Easter service with baptisms and the commissioning of a new church: Harvest Community Church.
 - Harvest Community Church will be led by Pastor Cam and it will be planted in Corry.
 - MCC was able to help the planting of this new church by funds to acquire 60 chairs! Thank you for your faithful giving to our missions account! There will be more details to come in our upcoming services!
- Pray for Pastor Brad and Jill and their family!
 - Pray as they balance their busy life with ministry and church planting.
 - Pray that God would strengthen them to lead ECC well.
 - Pray that God would provide their needs as they grow and develop their new property.