

How Long, O Lord?

Habakkuk's Inquiry
Habakkuk 1:1-4
January 14, 2024

For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth
perverted. - Habakkuk 1:4

I. A VISION FOR HABAKKUK

- Habakkuk received an “oracle” of doom for his own people. It is so clearly a word from God that it is seen from within Habakkuk, not just heard from without (Vs. 1).
- Habakkuk is “the prophet.” We know virtually nothing else about him. It is God’s word that takes precedence here, not through whom the word is received (Vs. 1).

II. SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES

- Habakkuk piles on the synonyms for injustice: Violence, iniquity, wrong, destruction, strife, contention, perversion. He lives in wicked times (Vss. 2-4).
- Habakkuk asks the age-old question of lament: Why? (Psalm 22:1, 35:17, 44:23, 74:1, 79:5; Jer. 12:1; John 9:1).
- Habakkuk is tired of living in a land, and in a time, and under rulers where justice is perverted and wickedness goes unchecked (Vs. 3; Ps. 44:23-26; Prov. 29:2).

III. A PARALYZED LAW

- Injustice goes unabated when the law has no ability to control human sinfulness (Ps. 12:8; Ezekiel 34:1-10; Micah 7:3-6).

IV. A WORD OF WARNING AND ENCOURAGEMENT

- We are called to be watchful and ready. God will right all wrongs in his timing (Matt. 24:36-51).

KNOW: It is hard to live in a fallen world. Both our fallenness and the world’s waywardness can lead to despair. It can seem like a constant uphill battle, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

DO: Hate what is evil, cling to what is good. Be watchful and ready.

Suggested Reading:

Grounded in Heaven: Recentering Christian Hope and Life on God by Michael Allen (Available in the LifePoint Library).

The Problem of Pain by C.S. Lewis (Available in the LifePoint Library)

For Children:

What is God Like? By Beverly Lewis (Available in the LifePoint Library)

NEXT WEEK’S PREACHING TEXT: Habakkuk 1:5-11

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Habakkuk 1:1-4

1. What is the theme of Habakkuk’s burden or inquiry?
2. What is life like in the days of Habakkuk? Do you see any correlation with the days in which we live?
3. What is Habakkuk’s main problem with God?
4. What happens when wicked people rule?
5. At this point in the text, all seems lost. Yet Habakkuk is seeking answers from God. What might we learn from the text thus far?
6. How does this text impact you personally? Does it call you to any sort of action in your life?