

How Long, O Lord?

God's Answer
Habakkuk 1:5-11
January 21, 2024

For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told. - Habakkuk 1:5

I. BEYOND BELIEF

- God's works are at times not only beyond our ability to comprehend, but beyond our ability to even believe is possible. Nothing is impossible with God (Vs. 5; Micah 5:2; Luke 1:26-37).
- Habakkuk is called to "wonder and be astounded." Among the nations at that time, Babylon was not a consideration as a future empire (Vs. 5).

II. RAISING UP TO TEAR DOWN

- God is raising up the Babylonians so that they can tear down Judah (and other nations), acting as his arm of judgment (Deut. 28:45-51; Isa. 13:17).
- The Babylonians are bitter, hasty, thieves, dreaded, fearsome, proud, fierce, violent, brutal and oppressive. They live far from Judah...but not far enough (Vss. 6-11).
- Babylon is a godless nation whom God will use to chastise a blessed people. Judah should have "kissed the Son," but they refused. Now they will know the wrath of the One who scoffs at all the rulers and nations of the world (Psalm 2).

III. A WORD OF HOPE

- We humans cannot understand the workings of the Lord. We're not expected to (Isa. 55:6-9).
- We can trust that God is working for our good, and bringing that good to completion in Christ (Rom. 8:28; Phil. 1:6).

KNOW: God owes us nothing. His ways are at times inscrutable, but he sees the end from the beginning. Eternity is his home and he is working out a plan in all things.

DO: Wonder at and be astounded by God. He is not to be understood, but to be obeyed and worshiped.

Suggested Reading:

Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary on Sin by Cornelius Plantinga Jr. (Available in the LifePoint Library)

Grounded in Heaven: Recentering Christian Hope and Life on God by Michael Allen (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 1:12-17

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Habakkuk 1:5-11

1. What does God think of Habakkuk's complaint?
2. What is God doing in Habakkuk's day?
3. What do you think of God's justice? Are you concerned about how it plays out?
4. Place yourself in Habakkuk's shoes. How would you feel if God told you he would punish America (or your home country) by bringing defeat at the hands of our enemies?
5. Now consider that the Babylonians were especially brutal, enslaving those they conquered or sending them into exile. Now how would you feel about God's plans if this were to be your fate?
6. How do we trust in God when things do not go our way?