

How Long, O Lord?

A Second Inquiry
Habakkuk 1:12-17
January 28, 2024

Are you not from everlasting, O LORD my God, my Holy One?
- Habakkuk 1:12

I. THE EVERLASTING GOD

- In opposition to the Chaldeans, who see themselves and their might as their god, Habakkuk's God (Yahweh) is the true everlasting God (Hab. 1:11; Deut. 33:27; Psa. 41:13, Psa. 90:2).
- He is also holy in the eyes of Habakkuk. This is why Habakkuk's soul is in such torment. God is not responding like he expects his God to respond (Ps. 22:3; Jer. 12:1-4).
- Vs. 12: "We shall not die." Here the text is perplexing. Is this a statement of faith, or a demand upon God?

II. THE PERPLEXING GOD

- God has spoken. Habakkuk has heard. God has chosen the Chaldeans as his instrument of judgment. The only question that remains is; Why?
- If God is so holy that he cannot "look at wrong," why does he watch idly as traitors devour his holy people? The "wicked" here are no longer the Lord's people in Judea, they are the Chaldeans (cf. Vs. 4 and Vs. 13).

III. THE IDOLATROUS PEOPLE

- The Chaldeans (Babylonians) were idolatrous in the literal sense. They served a pantheon of gods and goddesses. They were not only treacherous, they were foolish (Jer. 10:1-5).
- Will God allow a people like this to ravage the nations? (Vs. 17).
- The answer is "no" (Isa. 2:1-4; Micah 4:1-5; Rev. 21:22-27).

KNOW: God sees life differently than we do. He sees time differently than we do. We live in snippets of 100 years; God sees from eternity past to future. Even so, we may discern the foolishness of humankind, even in our short span of life.

DO: Recognize your own weakness. Ask God to break you...and then raise you up.

Suggested Reading:

Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary on Sin by Cornelius Plantinga Jr. (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 2:1

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Habakkuk 1:12-17

1. Describe Habakkuk's view of God. What does he think of him?
2. Can God look on evil? Can he see it? What does Habakkuk mean in verse 12?
3. What is the disconnect that Habakkuk sees between God's character and what he allows to take place?
4. Who does Habakkuk see as "more righteous" in verse 13? How did they go from being wicked to righteous (see vs. 4)?
5. Habakkuk sees sin on a scale from bad to worse. Is that how we generally view sin as well? Should we?
6. What is the folly of humankind in Habakkuk's eyes (vss. 14-16)?
7. How shall we learn from this text? What should we apply?