

How Long, O Lord?

Righteous By Faith and
Life Everlasting
Habakkuk 2:2-5
February 11, 2024

MAIN POINT: Our righteousness and hope of eternal life (both now and forever) are by faith alone in Christ alone, and are displayed in lives of faithful patience in the face of chaos, destruction, and death itself.

I. THE HERALD'S ANNOUNCEMENT (V. 2)

- Habakkuk's second cry (Hab. 1:12-2:1), in which he confesses Yahweh's eternality and steadfastness (v. 12), centers on the vast destruction of Babylon (1:14-15, 17) and Babylon's foolish idolatry (1:16).
 - Habakkuk stands ready to hear (2:1) how the LORD could use such a wicked nation to punish "less-wicked" Judah (1:13).
- The LORD's answer:
 - "Here's a vision, and just as Moses wrote my word down for my people (cf. Deut. 1:5; 27:8), you too will write my word down and it shall be heralded to my people..." (Hab. 2:2).

II. THE HEARERS' ATTITUDE (VV. 3-5)

- How should we then hear (and thus live)?

THE ARROGANCE OF THE WICKED (vv. 4a, 5)

- Will we be like wicked Babylon, puffed up and bent out of proportion (v. 4a; cf. Num. 14:44)?
- Will we be like wicked Babylon, deceived and inebriated, gathering and gathering and gathering—though we are never satisfied (Hab. 2:5)?

Ultimately, though the wicked seem to prosper, destruction lies in wait for them as they go on displaying such arrogance.

THE FAITH OF THE RIGHTEOUS (vv. 3, 4b)

- Will we rest in and receive by faith the promises of the LORD, ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ, and live accordingly (v. 4b)?
 - We are righteous by faith alone in Christ alone (cf. Rom. 1:16-17; Gal. 3:11), who gives to us his very own righteousness (Phil. 3:7-11) by grace alone to the glory of God alone.
 - The righteous have eternal life now in God through Christ by the Spirit (cf. John 6:63, 68-69; 17:3), and are called to wait for its fulfillment at Christ's second coming (cf. Heb. 10:32ff).
- Though it seems far off and the valley of death is dark, will we wait patiently for the fulfillment of the LORD's word (Hab. 2:3)?

Ultimately, though death surrounds the righteous and threatens to swallow us up, God's people WILL see God in the land of the living.

Suggested Reading:

The Whole Christ by Sinclair Ferguson

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Habakkuk 2:2-5

1. How does the reality of the certainty of the LORD's word (i.e., it will surely come to pass), though it may seem delayed, both mystify and encourage you?
2. Verses 3-5 provide us with two ways that the word of God might be heard—either received by faith or rejected in arrogance. Contrast the "hearers' attitude(s)." What is your attitude toward God's word?
3. Recall back to when you were brought from arrogance to humble faith with regards to God's word and the reality of Jesus Christ. Spend some time praising God for his sovereign grace in your life (and in the lives of others around you).
4. How is it that an unrighteous people can be declared righteous by a righteous God? What is the ground for God's declaration? How then are we to live?
5. The people of Judah will be overthrown and destroyed by the Babylonians within a generation of Habakkuk's prophecy. What, then, is the hope of life that the LORD himself promises? How should this sustain you in seasons of sorrow?