

# HABAKKUK

══════ O LORD, HOW LONG? ══════

**Text:** Habakkuk 1:5-11

Last week we saw the burden of Habakkuk and how he took his burden to the Lord.

It was a burden that saw righteousness fade in his nation. Habakkuk saw violence. Violence is not a good thing. Listen to ***Psalm 11:5*** ***“The Lord trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.”***

He saw a nation that was once right with God backslide into wickedness and it burdened him.

So he took his burden to the Lord! He cried out to God!

## **1. God’s \_\_\_\_\_ work - Habakkuk 1:5-6**

God told Habakkuk, “Look at the surrounding nations and from them will come a nation that will be My instrument of judgment on sinful Judah.”

**I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you:** We understand the idea of something “too good to be true,” but that isn’t what God

meant here. This was something “too bad to be true,” a work of judgment so astounding that Habakkuk would have a hard time believing it.

**I raise up the Chaldeans:** When the Babylonians (**the Chaldeans**) eventually came against Judah, they came as sent by the LORD. It wasn't that they themselves did not want to come, but God allowed their sinful desire to conquer Judah to come to fruition. If God had not allowed them to do it, they never could have conquered Judah and exiled God's people out of the Promised Land.

We need to understand that what is happening in our current lives being allowed by God!

Don't miss this. Churches all over America are not meeting in person and God is allowing it to happen. Why?

## **2. The Coming \_\_\_\_\_ - Habakkuk 1:7-11**

If God did allow them to do it for His purposes it would have never been done!

My prayer has been like Habakkuk, “O Lord, how long shall I cry?”

I want to blame the “Babylonians” and their fierce army for all the trouble. Why can't we just go back to the way things were?

But what if God is exposing something in me... something in us... something in our church that He wants to correct?

The word essential means “absolutely necessary; extremely important.”

I believe that nothing is more necessary or important than church!

What a church does together in the preaching of the Word, fellowship, breaking of bread and in prayers is necessary for the spiritual health of the believer.

See ***Matthew 23:23***

This is strong language but listen to the heart of our Saviour. They are paying a specific and detailed tithe. This was a good thing! They should have done this.

But they left off the weightier matters of the law of judgement, mercy and faith.

Most Christians are all good with attending church, worshipping the Lord in song, hearing a message from God’s Word, fellowshiping, eating a meal together and reading your devotional every day. These are all great things! We should be doing these things!

But what if we are missing something?

I believe that God has allowed our government to take away our church services and gatherings to expose that we are missing the actual ministry of the church!

See ***Matthew 25:31-40***

God cares about the physical wellbeing of His creation.

You know what I find interesting about all of these things? Except for maybe the prison ministry, they are all allowed as essential services in this current pandemic.

You can actually assemble as a church and provide these services! The same ones Jesus talked about!

The roots of essential services and Christians providing those services is very deep.

However, today Christians are mostly on the sidelines.

Don't get me wrong there are a lot of really good things happening out there but not like Christians of old.

It was never about the babylonians. It's not about the virus or even the government's response.

I believe God is calling out to His people to get back to the essential things!

I want to close by looking at a very famous verse that have been quoted a lot in this time of church shutdown.

See ***Hebrews 10:25***

You know what I find interesting about this verse? It is actually the third part of the complete sentence. The sentence begins in verse 23.

This is the complete thought of Hebrews 10:25. Hold fast to your profession of faith. Consider one another to provoke unto love and good works. Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together... and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

The purpose for assembling is to be able to exercise our love by doing God works. This is to increase as we see the day approaching!

What if God is using this pandemic to take away our Hebrews 10:25 to get us to focus on the truth of Hebrews 10:23-24?

What if we have left off the weightier things of the Law of Christ? How do we fulfill the law of Christ?

See ***Galatians 6:2***

See ***1 Peter 2:12***

See ***Matthew 5:13-16***

Would you pray about what you have heard this morning?

Would you ask the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart?



## GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION

1. How is God at work in the current pandemic?
2. Do you think the church should provide “essential services”?
3. Is the assembling in Hebrews 10:25 for a church service?
4. Where can we start in ministry for the least of these?

### **Answers to blanks**

Unbelievable

Judgment