

HABAKKUK

==== O LORD, HOW LONG? ====

Text: Habakkuk 1:12-2:1

We are living in some crazy days! Lord willing, we will be returning to normalcy very soon!

Habakkuk was living in some crazy times too. The nation of Judah had forsaken God and had turned to wickedness and violence.

Habakkuk was burdened by this and he cried out to God! He wanted God to fix the problem.

God responded by telling Habakkuk that He was going to send the Babylonian army to invade and correct God's people.

This is where we will pick up today.

1. Why use a wicked Nation? - Habakkuk 1:12-17

Habakkuk was first troubled that there was no judgment against Judah; God answered by telling him judgment was on the way.

Then Habakkuk upset by the *vessel* of judgment, the Babylonians – who were an even more wicked people than the people of Judah.

How should we respond in times of uncertainty?

- *Don't assume* - We make terrible problems for ourselves and our relationships when we make assumptions.
- *Stop to think* – before talking about it, think about it.
- *Restate basic Biblical principles* – As you think about the problem, don't begin with the problem. Go back further to basic principles about God and His dealing with man from the Word of God.
- *Apply the principles to the problem* – now, think about your problem in light of these basic principles.
- *Commit the matter to God in faith* – whether you know what to do or not.

Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: This is even more problematic to Habakkuk because he knew the character of God. Since he understood the holy character of God, he was more troubled than ever as to why God would judge wicked Judah by exalting even more wicked Babylon.

2. Waiting for God. - Habakkuk 2:1

Habakkuk has raised two important questions to God, yet he asked both with a proper attitude. He anticipated an answer from God and was willing to **watch** – that is, *wait* for it.

Often when we question God we don't expect Him to answer, but Habakkuk did.

Other times we not only *expect* God will answer, but we *demand* that He answer, and answer according to our schedule. Habakkuk approached this with the correct attitude.

When God's answers do come they often find us gone!

We have waited for a while, and, thinking there was no answer, we have gone our way but as we have turned the first corner the post as come in.

It is not enough to direct your prayer unto God; look up, and and then walk out.

And what I shall answer when I am reproved: Habakkuk's attitude was also right because he *expected* God to correct him.

Do you expect God to correct you? As Christians we are in possession of the indisputable truth of the Word of God. If we are not careful we begin to think our what is in our possession is a representation of what is in our hearts.

The reality is our hearts have a tendency to deceive. **1 John 1:8 "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."**

Even after salvation we have sin. We are not perfect. Christians are to be regular repenters.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

When the Holy Spirit of God uses the Word of God to expose sin in our heart we cry out. “Oh Wretched man that I am!”

Romans 7:21-25 “I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.”

If the Apostle Paul need to be corrected then so do we. You will always need correction as long as you are in the flesh.

When Habakkuk said, “**And what I shall answer when I am reproved:**” he didn’t ask God this question because he thought God was wrong and had to explain Himself.

He asked it because he knew that he was wrong and he needed to be corrected. His questions were his invitation to God saying, “God, I don’t understand what you are doing, but I know that you are right in all things. Please speak to me and correct me.” This needs to be our heart as well!



GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Have you ever questioned God's wisdom in His decisions?
2. Have you ever thought that God should be creating someone who was far worse than you?
3. How should we respond in times of uncertainty?
4. Do you expect God to correct you?