

AN HONEST DIALOG WITH GOD

Habakkuk 1:1-11

A range in years of about 626 to possibly 586 BC...with Habakkuk's writings taking place probably sometime between 610 and 605 BC.

Hab 1:1-2:5 is a dialogue between God and the prophet in which TWO COMPLAINTS are answered by TWO PIERCING REPLIES.

The core of Habakkuk's message is found in *Hab 2:4* - ...
the righteous will live by his faith.

Rom 1:17,

Gal 3:11-12

Heb 10:37-38.

AN HONEST DIALOG WITH GOD

Habakkuk 1:1-11

Psa 13:1–2 – 1...How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? 2 How long shall I take counsel in my soul, Having sorrow in my heart all the day? How long will my enemy be exalted over me?

Psa 74:1 - O God, why have You rejected us forever?

Psa 80:4 - O LORD God of hosts, How long will You be angry with the prayer of Your people?

Psa 88:14 - O LORD, why do You reject my soul? Why do You hide Your face from me?

1 The oracle which Habakkuk the prophet saw.

I. HABAKKUK'S LAMENTATION

vv 2-4

A. *LAMENT OVER UNANSWERED PRAYER*

2 How long, O LORD, will I call for help, and You will not hear?

Psa 4:1 - Answer me when I call, O God ... Be gracious to me and hear my prayer.

Job 30:20 - I cry out to You for help, but You do not answer me; I stand up, and You turn Your attention against me.

Psa 18:41 - They cried for help ... even to the LORD, but He did not answer them.

2... I cry out to You, "Violence!" Yet You do not save.

Gen 6:11 - Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence.

Job 19:7 - Behold, I cry, 'Violence!' ...

Jer 20:8 - ... each time I speak, I cry aloud; I proclaim violence and destruction...

2... I cry out to You, "Violence!" Yet You do not save.

3 Why do You make me see iniquity, and cause me to look on wickedness? Yes, destruction and violence are before me; strife exists and contention arises.

- *iniquity...wickedness*
- *destruction...violence*
- *strife...contention*

Job 15:35 - They conceive mischief and bring forth iniquity...

Psa 7:14 - Behold, he travails with wickedness, And he conceives mischief and brings forth falsehood.

3... Yes, destruction and violence are before me; strife exists and contention arises.

Prov 15:18 - A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but the slow to anger calms a dispute.

Prov 17:14 - The beginning of strife is like letting out water, so abandon the quarrel before it breaks out.

4 Therefore the law is ignored and justice is never upheld.

Prov 3:1 - My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments...

4...For the wicked surround the righteous; therefore justice comes out perverted.

II. GOD'S FIRST RESPONSE

vv 5-11

A. *THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOD'S WORK*

*5 "Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished!
Wonder!...*

*Jer 25:32 - ... a great storm is being stirred up from the
remotest parts of the earth.*

*5...Because I am doing something in your days-- You would
not believe if you were told.*

B. THE SPECIFICS OF GOD'S WORK

vv 6-10

6 "For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that fierce and impetuous people who march throughout the earth to seize dwelling places which are not theirs.

Jer 5:15–17 - 15 "Behold, I am bringing a nation against you from afar, O house of Israel," declares the LORD. ... 16

"Their quiver is like an open grave, all of them are mighty men. 17 "They will devour your harvest and your food; they will devour your sons and your daughters; they will devour your flocks and your herds; they will devour your vines and your fig trees; they will demolish with the sword your fortified cities in which you trust.

Amos 6:14 - For behold, I am going to raise up a nation against you, O house of Israel," declares the LORD God of hosts...

7 "They are dreaded and feared; their justice and authority originate with themselves.

8 "Their horses are swifter than leopards and keener than wolves in the evening. Their horsemen come galloping, their horsemen come from afar; they fly like an eagle swooping down to devour.

Deut 28:49 - The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as the eagle swoops down, a nation whose language you shall not understand...

*9 "All of them come for violence. Their horde of faces
moves forward. They collect captives like sand.*

10 "They mock at kings and rulers are a laughing matter to them. They laugh at every fortress and heap up rubble to capture it.

II. GOD'S FIRST RESPONSE

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A. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOD'S WORK

B. THE SPECIFICS OF GOD'S WORK

C. THE IMPARTIALITY OF GOD'S WORK

11 "Then they will sweep through like the wind and pass on..."

11 ...But they will be held guilty, they whose strength is their god."

Jer 51:24 - But I will repay Babylon and all the inhabitants of Chaldea for all their evil that they have done in Zion before your eyes," declares the LORD.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

#1 – *What is a common way to capture the question that is being raised by Habakkuk?*

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The problem of *THEODICY*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

#2 – *Is it permissible to question what God is doing?*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

#3 – *What are right and wrong questions to ask God?*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

#4 – *What does it mean to wait on the Lord?*