

## Habakkuk 1: Be careful for what you ask

- Habakkuk gets alone with God, not his small group class, not with his family, not with his friends, the men's ministry, he is alone with God
- Habakkuk is not afraid to ask God the questions that most disturb him
- Habakkuk wrestles with the answers he receives, Why God? Why this way? He realizes his Sunday School view of God is shallow and does not have God figured out
- Habakkuk leaves knowing less of God, but closer to Him.

Hab 1:1 The burden which Habakkuk the prophet did see.

Hab 1:2 O LORD, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! *even* cry out unto thee *of* violence, and thou wilt not save!

Hab 1:3 Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause *me* to behold grievance? for spoiling and violence *are* before me: and there are *that* raise up strife and contention.

Hab 1:4 Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.

- The burden, or object to be picked up and be carried
- Chapter 1, he cried, Chapter 2, he waited, Chapter 3, he heard
- Sometimes great ministry comes from great misery (reference Nehemiah's burden)
- Therefore law is slacked, the Torah is made weak or sluggish (Lord because you stand idly by and the wicked prosper, your law is made weak)
- How often do we feel the need to defend God's actions?

Hab 1:5 Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvellously: for *I* will work a work in your days, *which* ye will not believe, though it be told *you*.

Hab 1:6 For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, *that* bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwellingplaces *that are* not theirs.

- I, a sovereign God, raise up a nation that has not chosen me and I have not chosen them, to do my work
- All on the earth follow the sovereign will of God
- Pharaoh and Moses were both tools used of God, one willing the other not

Pro 21:1 The king's heart *is* in the hand of the LORD, *as* the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

Rom 9:17 For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.

Rom 9:21 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

Hab 1:7 They *are* terrible and dreadful: their judgment and their dignity shall proceed of themselves.

Hab 1:8 Their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves: and their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from far; they shall fly as the eagle *that* hasteth to eat.

- The reputation of the Babylonians would proceed them
- Who made their horses swift? Who granted their fierceness?
- Those who truly speak with God, do not always hear what they want

Hab 1:9 They shall come all for violence: their faces shall sup up *as* the east wind, and they shall gather the captivity *as* the sand.

Hab 1:10 And they shall scoff at the kings, and the princes shall be a scorn unto them: they shall deride every

strong hold; for they shall heap dust, and take it.

- God's providence equipped and allowed the Babylonian empire to flourish, he blessed with strength in numbers, captives, and the inability of kings to stand before them
- God foretells how the Babylonians would lay siege to a city, heaping dust

Hab 1:11 Then shall *his* mind change, and he shall pass over, and offend, *imputing* this his power unto his god.

- This may be reference to Nebuchadnezzar's arrogance that was chastised by God when he spent 7 years in the field as a wild beast
- What restraint Nebuchadnezzar had in his early reign was quickly lost as kingdoms fell before him and his empire grew

Dan 4:24 This *is* the interpretation, O king, and this *is* the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king:

Dan 4:25 That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

Hab 1:12 *Art* thou not from everlasting, O LORD my God, mine Holy One? we shall not die. O LORD, thou hast ordained them for judgment; and, O mighty God, thou hast established them for correction.

- Lord, this is not the right way! You promised Abraham!
- You might use them for correction, but not for destruction!
- This is too much! 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns cure acne, but is it worth the cost?
- The severity of the treatment gives indication of the seriousness of the disease
- Many times God's own people suffered captivities and violence in effort to turn them back to His commandments

Hab 1:13 *Thou art* of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, *and* holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth *the man that is* more righteous than he?

- God you are righteous and cannot behold wickedness. How can you partner with the heathen in this matter?
- How can your disobedient people be mistreated by those who are not yours?
- We are still better than they!
- God expects repentance from the sinner, but obedience from the saint.

2Ch 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

2Ch 7:19 But if ye turn away, and forsake my statutes and my commandments, which I have set before you, and shall go and serve other gods, and worship them;

2Ch 7:20 Then will I pluck them up by the roots out of my land which I have given them; and this house, which I have sanctified for my name, will I cast out of my sight, and will make it *to be* a proverb and a byword among all nations.

2Ch 7:21 And this house, which is high, shall be an astonishment to every one that passeth by it; so that he shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and unto this house?

2Ch 7:22 And it shall be answered, Because they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods, and worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath he brought all this evil upon them.

Jas 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth *it* not, to him it is sin.

- If your not lead dog, the view never changes
- My standard is Christ, not men
- I purpose to pursue after God, to run my race, not just to finish, but finish well
- God is bringing Habakkuk out of the mentality of “at least I'm not that bad”

Luk 18:10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

Luk 18:11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men *are*, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

Luk 18:12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

Luk 18:13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as *his* eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

Luk 18:14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

- Two men prayed, one exalted himself above another fallen man, the other humbled himself before a holy God
- Habakkuk is viewing the nation's position with God in context with the other pagan nations
- ***God wants us to be right with him, not just better than them!***
- God gave 10 commandments as the guidelines for His nation, religion took those ten and, based on the numbers of letters in the account of the giving of the law, 613, the scribes issued 613 statutes to legislate holiness
- Of the 613 traditions of the fathers, 248 were positive commandments, one based on each part of the body (as they understood and viewed the body) and 365 negative commandments, one for each day of the year

Hab 1:14 And makest men as the fishes of the sea, as the creeping things, *that have* no ruler over them?

Hab 1:15 They take up all of them with the angle, they catch them in their net, and gather them in their drag: therefore they rejoice and are glad.

Hab 1:16 Therefore they sacrifice unto their net, and burn incense unto their drag; because by them their portion *is* fat, and their meat plenteous.

Hab 1:17 Shall they therefore empty their net, and not spare continually to slay the nations?

- This nation would gather men like a fisherman would gather fish, without restraint or prejudice
- How could a loving God allow this to happen?
- God is more concerned about my tomorrow than my today?
- God looked ahead to the coming revivals in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah, when His people would stand for the reading of His word and say “amen, and all this we will do”
- God is not one-sided in His usage of the wicked against Israel, remember, this same God used the Roman cross against His own Son.

Hab 2:1 I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved.

Hab 2:2 And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make *it* plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

Hab 2:3 For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Hab 2:4 Behold, his soul *which* is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.