

What do we do with God's answers that don't match our expectations? What about hanging questions?

See the closing of chapter 1. Habakkuk's question regarding the reign of the wicked remains unanswered.

In this chapter, Habakkuk resolves to wait and watch for God's work in God's time. God, reaffirms the wicked will have their day in court and, even facing His divine judgment, he comforts Habakkuk with promises of a time when all the world will know Him.

Habakkuk resolves, God responds

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.

- Watch from the tower, write on the tablets, and wait on the time

Mat 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

Mat 24:43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

Mat 24:44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Mat 24:45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

Mat 24:46 Blessed *is* that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

- Write this down, so others may read and flee the wrath to come, a prophecy of future readers of God's word
- My word is true, just because it does not happen quickly does not mean it will not happen

2Pe 3:3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

2Pe 3:4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation.

Justice reaffirmed

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

- God takes Habakkuk's attention back to the previous chapter regarding the eminent invasion from the Chaldeans
- His soul may be exalted by unjust gain and violence, but it still falls to the righteous man to live his life by faith
- Being lifted up does not mean living upright

Pro 3:31 Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways.

Rom 12:17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

- The importance of faith, we are commanded to live by faith, not mere belief, but a higher conviction based on one thing, God's word
- Faith governs the righteous, it gives direction, restraint, encouragement, and hope
- Definition: Faith, or conviction, is the essence of our hopes and the proof of unseen things

Rom 10:17 So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hab 2:5 Yea also, because he transgresseth by wine, *he is* a proud man, neither keepeth at home, who enlargeth his desire as hell, and *is* as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people:

Hab 2:6 Shall not all these take up a parable against him, and a taunting proverb against him, and say, **Woe** to him that increaseth *that which is* not his! how long? and to him that ladeth himself with thick clay!

Hab 2:7 Shall they not rise up suddenly that shall bite thee, and awake that shall vex thee, and thou shalt be for booties unto them?

- While the just lives by faith, the wicked is governed by his never-satisfied appetite
- You reap what you sow, the very things that appear to show the wicked's immunity from God's law will be used as instruments against them
- *Thick clay* refers to the signing of contracts or truces/promises made while climbing to the top, there comes a day when all the favors are called in
- For every successful wicked person, there are more lying in wait for a time of opportunity
- The first of five “woes” in this chapter

Hab 2:8 Because thou hast spoiled many nations, all the remnant of the people shall spoil thee; because of men's blood, and *for* the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein.

- Be careful who you step on while climbing the ladder to the top, each rung is a potential enemy
- Each conquered nation and tribe becomes another member of a growing list of opponents

Hab 2:9 **Woe** to him that coveteth an evil covetousness to his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of evil!

- A solemn warning to those who covet unjust gain and seek to build their own empires, it will fall
- Beware to those who attempt to safeguard their empires from the same violence and lawlessness they employed in building theirs

Dan 4:29 At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon.

Dan 4:30 The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?

Dan 4:31 While the word *was* in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, *saying*, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.

Hab 2:10 Thou hast consulted shame to thy house by cutting off many people, and hast sinned *against* thy soul.

Hab 2:11 For the stone shall cry out of the wall, and the beam out of the timber shall answer it.

Hab 2:12 **Woe** to him that buildeth a town with blood, and stablisheth a city by iniquity!

- When we build of our power and out of evil desires, even the brick and mortar witnesses against us
- The works of our hands testify against us

Hab 2:13 Behold, *is it* not of the LORD of hosts that the people shall labour in the very fire, and the people shall weary themselves for very vanity?

- God speaks against the oppression of people by their rulers who build kingdoms on the weary backs of the common man
- It is not God's will for men to struggle for nothing other than another man's dreams

Hab 2:14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the

sea.

- A comforting promise amidst all the evil foreshadowing God has revealed to Habakkuk
- He will judge Judah and will use the most cruel device at the time, Babylon, but there will come a day when the earth is filled, not with the knowledge of Babylon, but of God
- This speaks of the reign of Christ when He assumes His position on David's throne

Hab 2:15 **Woe** unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that puttest thy bottle to *him*, and makest *him* drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!

Hab 2:16 Thou art filled with shame for glory: drink thou also, and let thy foreskin be uncovered: the cup of the LORD'S right hand shall be turned unto thee, and shameful spewing *shall be* on thy glory.

- Woe to those who cause their neighbors to sin, what goes around comes around
- Those who bring shame to others shall also be shamed
- Jerusalem had left God for other more tangible sources of worship because they thought God too far removed or absent altogether, this mentality leads to sin because we feel God is not watching

Hab 2:17 For the violence of Lebanon shall cover thee, and the spoil of beasts, *which* made them afraid, because of men's blood, and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein.

Hab 2:18 What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols?

Hab 2:19 **Woe** unto him that saith to the wood, Awake; to the dumb stone, Arise, it shall teach! Behold, it *is* laid over with gold and silver, and *there is* no breath at all in the midst of it.

- The violence of Lebanon speaks of the Babylonian invasion of Jerusalem
- Cedars from Lebanon were used in the building of the temple, palace, and other structures in Jerusalem
- We often look for things to put our trust in, especially when God's actions seem to be delayed. We search for tangible things (opposite the definition of faith), we elevate dead objects to the status of gods in our lives, then the day of trouble comes. The day when these gods offer no comfort, no answers, and no relief.
- In the day of trouble, where are the false gods
- Remember 9/11, who called out to Buddha? Muhammad? Gandhi? Oprah?

Hab 2:20 But the LORD *is* in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.

- There is one God who resides in a holy temple not built with hands