

Home Group Helps

Habakkuk 1:1-11

God Is at Work

I. Introduction (v.1)

¹ The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw.

II. Piercing Questions (v.2-4)

- ² O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear?
Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save?
- ³ Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong?
Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise.
- ⁴ So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth.
For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted.

III. A Profound Answer (v.5-11)

- ⁵ "Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded.
For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told.
- ⁶ For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation,
who march through the breadth of the earth, to seize dwellings not their own.
- ⁷ They are dreaded and fearsome; their justice and dignity go forth from themselves.
- ⁸ Their horses are swifter than leopards, more fierce than the evening wolves;
their horsemen press proudly on. Their horsemen come from afar;
they fly like an eagle swift to devour.
- ⁹ They all come for violence, all their faces forward.
They gather captives like sand.
- ¹⁰ At kings they scoff, and at rulers they laugh.
They laugh at every fortress, for they pile up earth and take it.
- ¹¹ Then they sweep by like the wind and go on,
guilty men, whose own might is their god!"

1. Launching Question(s):

- What has been a difficult time in your life where it felt impossible to believe that God was at work?

2. Observation Question(s):

- At this point in history, the northern kingdom of Israel had been taken into captivity. The southern kingdom had been miraculously saved from Assyria by the hand of the Lord (2 Kings 19:32-37).
- According to Habakkuk's words, how did the southern kingdom respond to God's merciful protection?
- Summarize in your own words the substance of Habakkuk's questions.
- Saints in the Bible ask the Lord questions often. What does it look like to ask questions of the Lord rightly? What about wrongly?
- Given the Lord's response, what does it mean for the "righteous to live by faith" in Habakkuk's day (2:4)? How does this apply to being a Christian?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- Habakkuk uses several strong words to describe the wickedness he sees in his fellow Israelites: “violence”, “iniquity”, “wrong”. With these in mind, is morality ultimately subjective or objective? How should these words affect the way we talk about sin, both in the world and in the church?
- If God is in control, at work, and completely good, why does it often seem like “the wicked surround the righteous” from our perspective (v.4)?
- What do we learn about God’s character from His initial response to Habakkuk in verse 5? Paul cites this verse in Acts 13:41 in reference to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ!
- Why does God go into such detail about the upcoming invaders of Judah?
- How does the Lord use both judgment and mercy to bring about the salvation of His people? How did Jesus’ crucifixion display both judgment and mercy, as well?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- How have you struggled to believe that God is at work in your own life lately?
- Given the truths of this passage, what about God’s character should assure us that He is indeed at work even when He may seem silent?

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