

Why, God?
(A Study of Habakkuk)
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Introduction: Have you ever reached the point where you think God is no longer in control of things?

- A. Some will see the wicked prosper and conclude that it does not pay to serve God. **(Psa 73:12-14)**
 - 1. Men of faith can have these doubts!
 - 2. The key is that the man of God will pursue these doubts to God Himself rather than quit and join the wicked.
- B. Habakkuk, a prophet of God had such doubts. **(Hab 1:1-4)**
 - 1. Did God see Judah's wickedness? Indifference?
 - 2. Why does God not act? Good people are losing the battle!
 - 3. Be careful when you seek such answers. God had a plan. Ex. "God does not see what I am going through, He does not see the hardship"

"We are born questioners. Look at the wonderment of a little child in its eyes before it can speak. The child's great word when it begins to speak is "why." Every child is full of every kind of question, about every kind of thing that moves, and shines, and changes, in the little world in which it lives. That is the incipient doubt in the nature of man. Respect doubt for its origin. It is an inevitable thing. It is not a thing to be crushed. It is a part of man as God made him. ... Doubt is the prelude of knowledge." -- Henry Drummond

I. God's Reply and Habakkuk's Dismay

- A. God's answer was not what Habakkuk wanted to hear. **(Hab 1:5-11)**
 - 1. It is important to know that God knows what he is doing.
 - 2. The Babylonians were very evil. God was going to use them.
 - 3. They were going to make a great slaughter of the people and never give God credit.
 - 4. We need to now that some people are beyond repentance. God knows!
- B. Habakkuk now has a greater problem.
 - 1. Have you ever had a problem that started out bad and then grew worse?
 - 2. How could God use such a wicked people? **(Hab 1:12-13)**
 - 3. The destruction would be great! They were going to use three kinds of nets. Nothing much would be left. They would then worship their net. **(Hab 1:14-17)**
 - 4. "How could God allow this to happen?"

II. The Second Answer of God

- A. Habakkuk to his credit knew when to be quiet and listen. **(Hab 2:1)**
 - 1. You cannot learn when you complain all the time.
 - 2. You cannot learn when you close your ears in anger.
- B. God simply repeated what He said. You can count on it! **(Hab 2:2-3)**
 - 1. God is not like us and is swayed by emotion.

2. When we act on principle we will see a great consistency.
3. When things do not go “our way” is when we show our faith.

C. God did see the sins of Judah. **(Hab 2:4-5)**

1. He knew their pride. Only “the just shall live by faith”, this is the key to the book.
2. The righteous would also suffer in such a judgment. Still, we must respond in faith.
3. God now gives five woes towards Judah. **(Hab 2:6-19)**
4. It is almost comical to think that we could ever think that we know something that God does not know! I am sure Habakkuk learned much he never knew.

"I believe that justice and mercy are simply one and the same thing; without justice to the full there can be no mercy, and without mercy to the full there can be no justice. Such is the mercy of God that he will hold his children in the consuming fire of his distance until they pay the uttermost farthing, until they drop the purse of selfishness with all the dross that is in it, and rush home to the Father and the Son, and the brethren--rush inside the center of the life-giving Fire whose outer circles burn." -- George MacDonald

D. What we need to do is shut our mouths and listen! **(Hab 2:20)**

1. Here is when we show our faith.
2. God’s wrath is coming upon this earth as well. **(Rom 1:18)**

III. Habakkuk’s Response of Faith

A. While Habakkuk has a time of struggle, he has resolved that and give God the praise. **(Hab 3:1-2)**

1. We too must not sit on the sidelines fuming very long.
2. We cannot fight God. God knows best.

B. God was doing the very best for His people. **(Hab 3:13)**

1. All of history stands because of what God wants for His people.
2. When we give up our faith we pervert the purpose for the whole universe.

"God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberty of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that His justice cannot sleep forever."

-- Thomas Jefferson

C. While Habakkuk has resolved his doubts, he knows difficult times are ahead for the faithful.

1. What if you knew this country would fall?
2. There is a good deal of grief for Habakkuk. **(Hab 3:16-17)**
3. Still there is a joy that no circumstances could remove from the righteous. **(Hab 3:18-19)**
4. This attitude must be in the Christian. **(Micah 7:7-8; Phil 4:13)**

Conclusion: Where is your faith?

- A. When we stay the course with God, much good will result. **(Rom 8:28)**
- B. Those who quit have lost all. **(Heb 10:35-39)**