

week three
MAY 3, 2020

HABAKKUK

a just faith



The Just Shall
Live by Faith

HABAKKUK 1:12–2:5
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SERMON OUTLINE NOTES

I. THE UNBELIEVABLE WORK OF GOD (HABAKKUK 1:5–6A)

- A. God is raising up the Chaldeans (Babylonians) to judge His people for their injustices (Habakkuk 1:5–6a)
- B. God is using evil as a part of His plan
 - 1. Often, God judges sin by sin (Romans 1:8-25)
 - 2. God works in the world through evil to accomplish His purposes (Isaiah 10:5–7)

II. HABAKKUK'S RESPONSE TO THESE THINGS (HABAKKUK 1:12–2:1)

- A. Habakkuk expresses his concern about apparent theological inconsistencies (Habakkuk 1:12–13)
 - 1. The true things about God (Habakkuk 1:12)
 - 2. How could God possibly do this given who He is? (Habakkuk 1:13)
- B. Habakkuk uses an extended metaphor to describe the situation (Habakkuk 1:14–17)
 - 1. People are like easy-to-catch creatures (Habakkuk 1:14)
 - 2. The Babylonians are skilled fisherman who are always successful at capturing nations and people – they do so joyfully (Habakkuk 1:15)
 - 3. The Babylonians are idolatrous people who worship their stuff (Habakkuk 1:16)
 - 4. So, will God do nothing about the sin of the Babylonians? Is this wicked nation free to inflict terror without any recourse? (Habakkuk 1:17)
- C. Habakkuk will wait to see how God will answer his complaint (Habakkuk 2:1)

III. THE JUST WILL LIVE BY FAITH (HABAKKUK 2:2–5)

- A. Habakkuk receives an urgent vision that must be shared (Habakkuk 2:2)
- B. The vision requires patience (Habakkuk 2:3)
 - 1. The vision will happen on God's timing; judgement occurs at the judges' discretion (2 Peter 3:8–9; Romans 2:3–4)
 - 2. If God seems slow, wait for Him (Habakkuk 10:35–39; Isaiah 30:18)
- C. The arrogant scoff at God's judgment, but the just (righteous) lives by faith (Habakkuk 2:4)
 - 1. Faith in God's Sovereignty (Isaiah 45:5–10)
 - 2. Faith in God's sovereign love + care (Matthew 10:28-31; Romans 8:31–32, 35–39)
 - 3. Faith in God's word (Jeremiah 1:12; Isaiah 46:8–11)
 - 4. Faith in God's secure promise (Romans 14:7–9; 1 Thessalonians 5:6–11)

HABAKKUK 1:12–2:5

Are you not from everlasting,

O Lord my God, my Holy One?

We shall not die.

O Lord, you have ordained them as a judgment,

and you, O Rock, have established them for reproof.

13 You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong,

why do you idly look at traitors

and remain silent when the wicked swallows up

the man more righteous than he?

14 You make mankind like the fish of the sea, like crawling things that have no ruler.

15 He brings all of them up with a hook;

he drags them out with his net;

he gathers them in his dragnet;

so he rejoices and is glad.

16 Therefore he sacrifices to his net

and makes offerings to his dragnet;

for by them he lives in luxury,

and his food is rich.

17 Is he then to keep on emptying his net and mercilessly killing nations forever?

2 I will take my stand at my watchpost

and station myself on the tower,

and look out to see what he will say to me,

and what I will answer concerning my complaint.

2 And the Lord answered me:

“Write the vision;

make it plain on tablets,

so he may run who reads it.

3 For still the vision awaits its appointed time;

it hastens to the end—it will not lie.

If it seems slow, wait for it;

it will surely come; it will not delay.

4 “Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him,

but the righteous shall live by his faith.

5 “Moreover, wine is a traitor,

an arrogant man who is never at rest.

His greed is as wide as Sheol;

like death he has never enough.

He gathers for himself all nations

and collects as his own all peoples.”

SERMON REFLECTIONS

1. What are the main characteristics of the Babylonians that Habakkuk brings out in his complaint?

2. As we saw last week, God offered a response to Habakkuk’s complaint. How did God answer Habakkuk in this week’s passage? How does it differ from His response to the first complaint?

3. What does it look like to live by faith as we wait for God’s justice?

4. How do God’s love and sovereignty encourage you to wait faithfully on His promises?

5. Does it seem that God has been slow to resolve the different trials you are facing today? How are you being challenged to wait for the Lord?