

Look, See, and Be Amazed at God

Habakkuk 1:5

“Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder!
Because *I am* doing something in your days—You would not believe if you were told.”

I. Habakkuk’s plea (vs. 1-4) is very *personal*; God’s response (v. 5) is very *global*.

The larger the bridge, the more massive the arch. If you wish to look and be encouraged, go higher. “Your World” with Neil Cavuto is life for many. “My World” with God as host and subject is better. Big picture Christians are patient with the Artist as they observe Him doing some astonishing things.

A. The best remedy for personal misery is involvement in global mercy.

Share the gospel. Partner with those who go overseas. Push yourself to be amazed at God’s work. “Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder!” Look and observe are active verbs. “Be astonished and wonder” are passive actions that occur when one intentionally looks globally.

B. God’s global mercy reduces faith in national and cultural supremacy.

Pay close attention. Habakkuk considered the nation of Israel supreme. He reminds God that the Jews are “God’s chosen people.” There are problems at home. God where are you? Send revival! God speaks and says, “Look among the *goyim*” – Hebrew for nations; other people (Sept. *ethnos*).

II. The most global and amazing work of God is the redemption of the nations through Jesus Christ.

There are a few verses in Habakkuk that are used by writers of the New Testament, including v. 5. The Apostle Paul defends his work among the Gentiles before the Jewish leaders in Pisidian Antioch. In a marvelous defense of God’s Good News to the world (Acts 13:13-43), Paul quotes Habakkuk 1:5.

“Look, *you scoffers*, wonder *and perish*, for I am going to do something in your days that you would never believe, even if someone told you” (Acts 13:41).

Notice how Paul adds “scoffers” and “perish.” When Paul proclaims the Gospel, the Law has been fulfilled. Christ has come. Through His death, burial and resurrection, God has redeemed His people. “God so loved the world, that whosoever believes in Him shall not *perish*, but have everlasting life.”

A. God has always had a heart for the nations.

“Are you not as children of the Ethiopians to Me, O children of Israel? said the LORD. Have not I brought Israel out of Egypt? The Philistines from Caphtor, and the Syrians from Kir? (Amos 9:7).

B. A church with God’s heart focuses outwardly.

“And Jesus said to His disciples, “Go into all the world and *preach* the gospel to all” (Mark 16:15).

III. When things around you look awful, remember that God is up to something astonishing.

“Be astonished! *I am* doing something in your days— You would not believe if you were told” (v. 5).

A. Remember the “I am” when you can’t – He’s the promise keeper. God’s promises are certain.

B. Remembering the “I am” brings hope – knowing God is as much a matter of history as faith.

The prophet Jeremiah is a contemporary of Habakkuk. The book of Lamentations is written by “the weeping prophet” (Jeremiah) as he laments over Jerusalem and the state of God’s people.

“*But this will I call to mind* and have hope. The Lord is good to those who trust Him. His mercies are new every morning. Great is Your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:21-23).

C. “I am” is the Covenant name of God. God revealed to Moses that He is the great “I am...”

Why I am? I am, *not* I was (present). I am, *not* I’m not (positive). I am, *not* I can’t (powerful).