

The God of This World and the Gods of Imagination

Habakkuk 1:6-11

Every maladjustment and/or dysfunction in life or relationships can be attributed *to the sin of idolatry*. The overall title of this series is “Stop Doubting God’s Goodness.” God is to be our Source. His goodness, love, and mercy are to be trusted. The number one reason people turn from God is when bad or evil things happen. This text will help us think clearly about God when bad things happen to God’s people.

I. God is Sovereign over all things, including all evil things done by wicked people.

“Behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that fierce and impetuous people” (v. 6; compare with 1:5).

How can it be said that God is the One who is in control of (sovereign) over wicked people and acts?

A. God does not inspire evil.

God does not inspire sinners with wicked passions necessary to qualify them for the sinful work of violence, rape and bloodshed. God doesn’t do this. *“God tempts no person to evil”* (James 1:13).

B. God does not coerce evil.

God does not force people to do evil. Then how does He “raise” them up? He permits them. He could prevent them; but He allows them. He gives them life, capacity, and opportunities to act.

“God either permits, promotes or prohibits all things” (A.W. Pink). Sin and evil don’t escape God.

“Then God said to Abimelech...‘I have kept you from sinning against Me’” (Genesis 20:6).

II. Wicked people will be held responsible by God for the evil things they have done.

“But they will be held guilty” (Habakkuk 1:11). God can work all things for good for His people.

A. God’s judgments always redound for the good of His people.

The origin of the Chaldean people is found in Genesis 11 with the Tower of Babel and Nimrod.

Nimrod, the forerunner of Nebuchadnezzar and Saddam Hussein, wanted all to worship him.

God’s judgment was to confuse languages, ultimately something good for God’s people.

“Because of My eternal love for Israel, I’ve made you king to maintain justice” (1 Kings 10:9).

B. God’s judgments always redound for the praise of His name.

God said of the wicked Pharaoh: *“For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show My power in you, and that My name may be proclaimed in all the earth”* (Romans 9:17).

“If it is possible on your part, live at peace with everyone. Do not avenge yourselves, beloved, but leave room for God’s wrath. For it is written: ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord.’ On the contrary, ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink.’”

Romans 12:18-20

III. God’s people can trust that He is working all things for their good.

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28). But someone declares, “I cannot see the good!” I don’t understand everything about electricity, but it doesn’t keep me from turning on the lights.

“The righteous by shall live by faith” (Habakkuk 2:4).

This is the theme of Habakkuk. Can’t you see God working all things for your good? Trust His Word.

“The righteous shall live by faith” is repeated in Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11 and Hebrews 10:38.

A. What event in your life is causing you pain? *Stop doubting God’s goodness.*

B. Are you trusting in your strength to resolve the unresolvable? *Stop doubting God’s goodness.*

The Chaldeans and the 10 Commandments Habakkuk 1:6-11

“For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans,
That fierce and impetuous people
Who **march throughout the earth** (*Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.*)
To **seize dwelling places which are not theirs.** (*You shall not covet.*)
⁷ “They are dreaded and feared;
Their **justice and authority originate with themselves.** (*Do not take God’s name in vain.*)
⁸ “Their horses are swifter than leopards
And keener than wolves in the evening. (*Why do the wicked prosper?*)
Their horsemen come galloping,
Their horsemen come from afar;
They fly like an eagle **swooping down to devour.** (*You shall not steal.*)
⁹ “All **of them come for violence.** (*You shall not murder.*)
their horde of faces moves forward.
They **collect captives like sand.** (*You shall not commit adultery.*)
¹⁰ “They **mock at kings** (*Do not bear false witness.*)
And **rulers are a laughing matter to them.** (*Honor your father and mother.*)
They laugh at every fortress
And **heap up rubble to capture it.** (*You shall not make an idol for yourself.*)
¹¹ “Then they will sweep through *like* the wind and pass on.
But they will be held guilty,
They whose **strength is their god.**” (*You shall have no other gods before me.*)

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

William Cowper

God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm.
Deep in unfathomable mines of never failing skill
He treasures up His bright designs, and works His sov’rign will.
Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; the clouds ye so much dread,
Are big with mercy and shall break in blessings on your head.
Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face.
His purposes will ripen fast, unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste, but sweet will be the flow’r.
Blind unbelief is sure to err and scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter, and He will make it plain.