

## Does God Really Care?

Habakkuk 1:12-17

Habakkuk opens with a personal lament and prayerful cry to God about his circumstances (1:1-4). God answers Habakkuk's personal pain with a global principle – "I am at work" (1:5-11) in the nations doing something amazing. Habakkuk speaks to God again (1:12-17) and expresses some very deep confusion.

### I. Habakkuk is confused over God's ways.

Habakkuk is a professional prophet; but expertise in the Bible isn't a guarantee there's no confusion. "How can a holy God use an unholy, wicked, idolatrous Babylonian king to bring good to His people?" In frustration, the prophet cries out like you or I, "Don't You care for me, God? If so, why allow this?"

#### A. Habakkuk had experienced good times.

He had seen the worship of God re-established in Judah. He had seen justice restored in the land. He had seen idolatry crushed and oppression replaced with mercy. But now things had gone south.

1. "O LORD, how long shall I cry, and You will not hear!" (v. 2) — But the Lord does respond.
2. "Your eyes are too pure to approve evil" (v. 13) – Habakkuk doesn't like what he hears.

#### B. Habakkuk couldn't see any good coming.

God has given Habakkuk a vision (e.g. "an oracle") of the Chaldeans coming against God's people. The emotions and feelings in Habakkuk would be like what you felt when you heard bad news. But God says, "My ways are higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts (Is. 55:9). "As high as the heavens above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him" (Ps. 103:11).

### II. Habakkuk challenges God about His wisdom.

Knowing His character, how could God use a wicked, idolatrous person to accomplish His purposes?

- A. **Habakkuk acknowledges God's person** - eternal and immortal (v. 12); holy and just (v. 13a).
- B. **Habakkuk argues about God's passiveness**– "Why do You tolerate the treacherous? Why are You silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than they?" (v. 13). Do something, Lord!
- C. **Habakkuk won't accept God's plans** - Verse 15 is a metaphor from the sea. "The Chaldeans (lit. 'the wicked foe') bring all of them up with a hook." In the Hebrew language, vs. 15-17 switch to *third person singular* (e.g. "he drags them with a hook" "he rejoices and is glad" "he sacrifices to his net," "he destroys nations"). Who is he? He is the king (Nebuchadnezzar), a wicked, evil king. Nebuchadnezzar was known to put hooks in the jaws of his captives and drag them to Babylon. This absolutely made no sense to Habakkuk. "If I were God, I would stop this from happening!" What good comes from the wicked putting hooks in God's child and dragging him or her away?

### III. Habakkuk's comfort can only be God Himself.

When you can't see wisdom in the plans and purposes of God, "faith it" back to *the person of God*. This is the theme of Habakkuk. "The righteous will live by faith" (Hab. 2:4). Faith in God's goodness. "Are You not from everlasting, O Lord, my God, my Holy One? *We will not die*. You, O Lord, have appointed them to judge; And You, **O Rock**, have established them to correct" (v. 12).

#### A. Your best course of action in times of confusion is to trust the character of your God.

Remember who God is. Worship Him. Trust Him. And be still. We have too low a view of God. "O mighty God" is literally "O Rock." On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.

#### B. You know that you are trusting the character of God when you cast your anxieties on Him.

"Cast all your anxieties on Him; because He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7). A tale of two fishermen. The wicked pull God's people with hooks; but God's people cast their worries to Him who cares.