

## The Righteous Will Live by Faith

Habakkuk 2:1-4

The prophet Habakkuk lived and worked in Jerusalem as a professional prophet (e.g. in the Temple) during a desperate time for the Jews (608 – 597 B.C.). The Chaldeans (e.g. Babylonians) under King Nebuchadnezzar had surrounded the city, and these “fierce and impetuous people” were looking to take captive the Jews, bringing the best and brightest Jews back to Babylon “by hook and by crook” into exile.

Habakkuk 1:1-4 – Habakkuk cries out to God, “How long, O Lord, will You be silent? Where are You?”

Habakkuk 1:5-11 – God answers, “Behold, *I am* doing a marvelous work, *I am* raising up the Chaldeans...”

Habakkuk 1:12-17 – Habakkuk responds, “*You are raising them up?* Do You know what You’re doing?”

Habakkuk 2:1 – Habakkuk catches himself, “I will go and stand watch and see what He will speak to me.”

### I. There Is a Truth We Often Hear

Habakkuk heard this truth throughout God’s initial response (Chapter 1). “I am sovereign. I am good. I am bringing good to you through the fierce and impetuous Chaldean people and their evil king.”

God calls this an “astonishing” work (v. 5), and tells Habakkuk he will soon “marvel” at it (v. 5). “*We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him*” (Romans 8:28).

How do we know this? How do we know that God will work all things for good? Where’s the school?

### II. There Is a Tower We Must Climb

To really see what God is doing you have to get a higher perspective. You must go above the linear.

#### A. The tower you climb involves obedience.

God had said to Habakkuk, “Look...and observe” (e.g. see and behold) what “I am doing” (v. 5).

Rather than immediately *obeying*, Habakkuk began *complaining* (v.12 – 17). It’s always easier to vocalize your objection to God than to realize your objective from God. Discipleship is discipline.

#### B. The tower you climb involves obstacles.

It’s sometimes dark while you’re obeying God. It’s sometimes difficult. The end is always the light.

Some say of walking with God “Fake it till you make it,” but the truth is more “Do it till you see it.”

When you get to the top of the watchtower and step into the light, you haven’t quite yet arrived.

### III. There Is a Test We Will Face

We get to the top and we see the Babylonians (e.g. “the Chaldeans”) which represents all things bad. The evil in our lives does not look like a red, pitchfork devil oozing slime. Evil often looks beautiful.

#### A. God’s deliverance is on His timetable, not mine.

“Record the vision...inscribe it...for the vision is yet for the appointed time” (v.2-3).

#### B. God’s deliverance is a certain truth, not debatable.

“Thought (it) tarries, wait for it; for it will certainly come” (v. 3).

#### C. God’s deliverance is to bring low the proud and raise up the humble.

The proud one (lit. “lifted up” v. 4) has a soul that is “not (up)right within him” (v. 4). So...

“*Before his downfall a man’s heart is proud, but humility comes before honor*” (Proverbs 18:12).

### IV. There Is a Trust We Shall Find

“The righteous will live by faith (in Me)” (2:4). “I shall exalt him in due time” is God’s promise.

“When I understood these words, “*The just shall live by faith! The just shall live by faith!*” – then I felt born again like a new man; I entered through open doors into the Paradise of God” (M. Luther).

“*The Lord is my Rock, my Fortress, and my Deliverer. The Lord is my High Tower*” (Psalm 18:2).