


Habakkuk confessed his fright, realizing the penalty awaiting those who doubt the Sovereign's justice (3:16).

3:17-19. The triumphant resolution of the prophet is proclaimed.



TAKE-HOME LESSONS

1. Jehovah God expects His People to be vigilant citizens upholding righteousness
2. Perplexity is fueled by this world but calmed by God's Word (*Eph. 4:14*)
3. God does not ignore evil - judgment is certainly coming! (*Hab. 3:3-15*)
4. Tranquility can exist in the midst of distress. (*Job 13:15; Psalm 73:26-28*)

Even in the midst of destruction and ruin, Habakkuk learned that one can trust God implicitly! He learned that God was not idle; that He was doing a wonderful work.

Do you need the trusting faith of Habakkuk? Have you allowed the tumults of life to persuade you to leave the faith response of 3:17-19?

¹⁷Though the fig tree should not blossom and there be no fruit on the vines, though the yield of the olive should fail and the fields produce no food, though the flock should be cut off from the fold and there be no cattle in the stalls, ¹⁸yet I will exult in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation. ¹⁹The Lord God is my strength, and He has made my feet like hinds' feet, and makes me walk on my high places.

How confident is your trust in Jehovah God?



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LESSON 1: A PORTRAYAL OF PERPLEXITY- GOD & EVIL

A Study of Habakkuk

WHEN GOD SEEMS SILENT

John Kachelman Jr.



God's directives address ALL facets of earthly living for a Christian. These inspired directives encompass "heaven/hell issues."

- His soul's salvation (becoming a Christian, work and worship as a Christian)
- His personal relationships (marriage, morality and fellowship)
- His citizenship duties—on a national basis and a spiritual basis (there is "dual citizenship")

Satan corrupts these so that despair overcomes the Christian and faith in Jehovah is shaken. **IS GOD REALLY IN CONTROL?**

Habakkuk presents the perplexing despair when satanic evils corrupt the real of civility. We believe God is in control of civil governing; laws are to uphold God's righteousness; governing is to suppress and punish

the wrong and protect the righteous and innocent. But this is not always evident. In fact, a failure of this civil justice is often found in Scripture (Jeremiah 12:1-4; Psalm 73:1-14; Revelation 6:10).

Do you despair as you survey modern society?

- Abortions are the sacred action of the Progressives. 2,465 babies are aborted daily. “It is staggering to think that, since 1973, over 62 million Americans have lost their lives in the womb due to being aborted or terminated by their parent.” Civic involvement is a heaven/hell issue! Voting IS a heaven/hell issue.
- Corrupt politicians pass laws that are intentionally designed to which destroy our once great nation?
- Ridicule, blasphemy, and course jesting that defies Jehovah’s righteousness is pervasive. There is a visible rejection of anything “holy”!

This is the society from which Habakkuk spoke...he could not understand how a great, holy, sovereign God would allow evil to continue. He did not question God, he had an absolute faith in God, BUT his faith did not fit the visible facts of daily life.

Habakkuk’s journey from perplexing doubt to confident understanding is a pattern for us to follow.

Survey his prophecy and discover an encouraging lesson.

QUESTION #1: IS THERE CIVIL JUSTICE?

1:1-4. It seemed God was tolerating Judah’s evil deeds. Habakkuk could not understand why so much evil and violence was tolerated in society when God had clearly commanded citizens to uphold righteousness. Why does God allow citizens to advocate, embrace and practice ungodliness in their nation?

One cannot evade this duty by saying he is a “citizen of heaven.” God commands His People to be godly citizens, uphold righteousness and oppose ungodliness (Leviticus 18:30).

There is an absoluteness about this command and an obligation upon the citizen to make sure his nation adheres to God’s moral standards. God holds the nation AS WELL AS THE INDIVIDUAL citizen responsible for the moral culture of the nation (Deuteronomy 30:19).

“Do not practice any of the abominable customs.”

God expects Christians to be loyal, law-abiding citizens upholding righteousness in their nation—they are light and leaven, they pray for the Lord’s providence in State affairs, they utilize laws to uphold moral principles, and they are not hesitant about confronting authorities in matters of immorality, ethics and righteousness.

The Christian’s national citizenship cannot be excused—he must be involved in the governing of his country or else be held responsible for its demise. National citizenship IS a heaven/hell issue!

Answer #1—Citizens Will Be Held Accountable!

1:5-11. God does not tolerate evil. Judah’s evil would be punished. Babylon would be the instrument of discipline. Jehovah IS interested in the events of this world (Exodus 2:24-25; 3:7).

Worldly cares tempt us to forget God’s constant presence and involvement in this world. The Word is “choked by the worries of this life” (Luke 8:14).

God’s message was simple, “Look among the nations! Watch! Be horrified! Be frightened speechless! For I am accomplishing a work in your days—You would not believe it even if you were told!” (Habakkuk 1:5).

Remember this immutable fact—God IS aware; God IS watching; God IS working. The righteous IS cherished while the unrighteous is abandoned.

QUESTION #2: HOW CAN THIS BE RIGHT?

1:12-2:1. Habakkuk was shocked at the use of Babylonia. “How could God use one more wicked to destroy the righteous?” The nation failed to follow God. Habakkuk did not remember that when the citizens fail to uphold righteousness then punishment comes (Proverbs 14:34).

Answer #2—The Lord is in His Holy Temple!

2:2-20. God is not blind to sin in Babylonia. NO ONE evades the discerning eye of Jehovah God (2:4). “Faith” looks at the inequities of life and knows that God is doing “something that you would not believe even if you were told”! (2:20)

CONSOLING THE DESPONDENT PERPLEXITY

3:1-16. Habakkuk came to understand that there will be a universal Judgment on evil (3:1-15). Once he understood the Almighty’s justice,