

Faith in Fearful Times, Part 2
Habakkuk 2

Getting Started

- ❖ Have you ever been burdened by your experience of life in this world? Have you been burdened by the evil you see in the Christian church? What was the experience of this burden like for you?
- ❖ In light of the question above, have you ever been like Habakkuk and felt like God is silent in the face of evil, especially the evil of those who claim to be his people? How did you experience the burden of God's silence?

Digging Deeper

- ❖ **Read Habakkuk 2** and let's discuss some aspects of the text and sermon
 - How would you describe the "tone" of Habakkuk in verse 1?
 - Jerry pointed out that after voicing his concerns to God, Habakkuk in verse 1 resolves to take his place on the wall and in the lookout tower of the city.
 - When interpreted as a literal "next step" it says something to us during times when we wait on God. How should Habakkuk's response shape our actions when waiting on God?
 - When interpreted spiritually, this shows Habakkuk gaining perspective on his concerns. How do you seek to gain perspective when facing uncertain times?
 - It is clear from verse 1 that Habakkuk was engaging with God in a spiritually healthy manner.
 - What are you doing with your doubts and complaints about God and his ways?
 - Do you let your doubts and questions and frustrations about what God is or isn't doing provide you with an excuse to ignore and avoid God? Or do your doubts, questions, and frustrations drive you to him?
 - Are you complaining to God or are you simply complaining about God?
 - As God answers Habakkuk in verses 2-20, He reinforces to Habakkuk what He said in chapter 1, i.e., God sees it all and is at work but in a way we won't always understand or even like.
 - Do you really want a God whose doesn't have purposes that you can't understand?
 - Do you really want a God who is limited to interacting with the world on the basis of your perspective?
 - In verse 14, God speaks to spreading His Kingdom and glory across the earth. How are you actively being used by God to accomplish this great work?

Apply It!

- ❖ Sometimes it isn't God's silence and the waiting that burdens us but his clear declarations. Are there things God has said in Scripture, or specific answers the Bible gives to some of your questions, that you've found as troubling or even more troubling than waiting for God to speak?

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- ❖ How have you wrestled with these various burdens? Have you felt free to discuss them with God or within the community of a church?
- ❖ Where are you currently at with your faith? Emotionally? Intellectually? Spiritually?

Think About It!

Some Christians have formed the idea that Christianity and the Christian life are furnished with flowers and tranquility. When faced with difficulties and tragedies they start wondering about the strength and validity of their faith, and it benefits them in such circumstances to express to God in all honesty and transparency how they feel, whether it's a question, complaint, disappointment, doubt or feelings of despair. It would benefit them to learn from Habakkuk that God wants them to share all they think or feel, whether they consider that stemming from faith, little faith or even complete lack of faith. (Riad A. Kassis, *Frustrated with God: A Syrian Theologian's Reflections on Habakkuk*)

WORSHIP RESOURCE

September 27, 2020 | 17th Sunday after Pentecost

WORSHIP SONGS

GREAT THINGS

Words by Phil Wickham and Jonas Myrin, 2018

Come, let us worship our King. Come, let us bow at His feet. He has done great things. See what our Savior has done. See how His love overcomes. He has done great things. He has done great things.

O Hero of Heaven, You conquered the grave. You free every captive and break every chain. O God, You have done great things. We dance in Your freedom, awake and alive. O Jesus, our Savior, Your name lifted high. O God, You have done great things.

You've been faithful through every storm. You'll be faithful forevermore. You have done great things. And I know You will do it again for Your promise is Yes and Amen. You will do great things. God, You do great things.

Hallelujah, God above it all! Hallelujah, God unshakable!
Hallelujah, You have done great things.

LAY ME DOWN

Words and Music by Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, Jonas Myrin, and Matt Redman, 2012

With this heart open wide from the depths from the heights
I will bring a sacrifice. With these hands lifted high hear my song
hear my cry. I will bring a sacrifice; I will bring a sacrifice.

*I lay down me down I'm not my own, I belong to you alone.
Lay me down Lay me down. Oh, hand on my heart this much is true,
there's no life apart from You. Lay me down Lay me down.*

Letting go of my pride giving up all my rights
Take this life and let it shine Take this life and let it shine

It will be my joy to say Your will Your way (2x)
It will be my joy to say Your will Your way always.

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

*Words from Rippon's Selection of Hymns, 1787
Traditional American Melody*

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He has said
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled.

Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed,
for I am Your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply;
the flame shall not hurt you, I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

LAMB OF GOD

Words by Jason Ingram, Andi Rozier, and Meredith Andrews, 2014

You came from heaven's throne, acquainted with our sorrow,
to trade the debt we owe—Your suffering for our freedom.

*The Lamb of God in my place. Your blood poured out,
my sin erased. It was my death You died I am raised to life.
Hallelujah the Lamb of God.*

My name upon Your heart. My shame upon Your shoulders.
The power of sin undone. The cross for my salvation.

There is no greater love. There is no greater love.
The Savior lifted up. There is no greater love.

DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 108; Hosea 1:1-2:1; James 3:1-13; Matt. 13:44-52

MONDAY | Ps. 73; Hosea 2:2-15; Acts 20:17-38; Luke 5:1-11

TUESDAY | Ps. 12; Hosea 2:16-23; Acts 21:1-14; Luke 5:12-26

WEDNESDAY | Ps. 96; Hosea 3:1-5; Acts 21:15-26; Luke 5:27-39

THURSDAY | Ps. 26; Hosea 4:1-10; Acts 21:27-36; Luke 6:1-11

FRIDAY | Ps. 40; Hosea 4:11-19; Acts 21:37-22:16; Luke 6:12-26

SATURDAY | Ps. 90; Hosea 5:1-7; Acts 22:17-29; Luke 6:27-38

PRAYER OF RENEWAL

God of our salvation,
we falter before the demands of your word
and turn away from your call to life.

Pour out your mercy on us
as you showed mercy to your people of old,
that we may turn from our sinfulness
and walk the path of self-emptying love
made known in Jesus Christ. Amen.



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