

8. Habakkuk – Live By Faith

Opening Thoughts:

What are some examples of “why” questions that people ask of God?

Name something a person might complain about. Are all complaints wrong?

How would you define the word “lament”?

Someone once said, “God would rather have you complain to him than ignore him.” Evaluate, What do you think this statement means? Is it wrong to question or doubt God’s purpose? Why or why not? Why does the Bible include lament in the Holy Scriptures?

Habakkuk is Primarily a Biblical Lament:

- The Prophet addresses God rather than Israel
- The Prophet draws God’s attention to evil, injustice, and suffering
- The Prophet asks: If God is good, why is evil prospering while God’s own people are suffering?

Chapter 1-2 Lament of Habakkuk

Complaint #1 (1:2-4)

Response #1 (1:5-6)

Complaint #2 (1:12-13)

Response #2 (2:2-4) Write this down...

Why do you think God emphasizes waiting and watching and listening? What do these activities have to do with the life of the Christian?

Can you find a cross reference to the NT for 2:4? Look it up.

Based on this cross reference, what then does it mean to “live by faith” and why is this contrasted with the one who is “puffed up”?

Can you think of ways that the story of Babylon / Israel becomes symbolic for all history?

2:6-20 - Against the pride of Babylon, Habakkuk mocks their foolish ways:

Woe 1 - corrupt business

Woe 2 - profit off the poor

Woe 3 - slave labor

Woe 4 - over indulgence

Woe 5 - idolatry

2:20 Why does this statement come where it does, based on what precedes it (see 2:18-19)?

'Chapter 3 - Prayer of Habakkuk

In Habakkuk's prayer, he sees a fearful vision of God's vengeance.

He recounts a fearful "Exodus" like event that saves the people of God. God comes down from a great mountain and lets loose his anger in all the creation against the nations who have rebelled.

He anticipates a future exodus, which will be accompanied by "the day of trouble upon people who invade us. Habakkuk waits quietly for this to unfold.

3:17-19 What does joy look like to Habakkuk? How is this possible?

It was said once that "the future for the Christian is both much worse than you feared, yet much more glorious than you could possibly imagine." Do you agree and what do you think this is saying?

Based on all of Habakkuk, what are some key take aways about "living by faith" in our own circumstances?