

Title: God Feels Distant | Get Worse – Don't Make Sense = Tempts You to Wander

• **Metaphore = Wait & Watch | Self-Fulfilling | Robert Robinson – 1735 - Come thou Fount – Prone When Lord...when...why... | Sometimes got to wait...not tempted to wander | Don't get a break point Be content in the waiting - BI – Confidence in God Renews Contentment – Response...**

² And the Lord answered me: "Write the vision, make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it. ³ For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay. ⁴ "Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith. ⁵ "Moreover, wine is a traitor, an arrogant man who is never at rest. His greed is as wide as Sheol; like death he has never enough. He gathers for himself all nations and collects as his own all peoples."

Not alone in struggling with discontentment – unknown...crazy | Sometime tomorrow...

- Judah would have felt this way...coming...but when – How long – Bring good stuff – **None In the waiting...our confidence in God will be tempted – We must embrace faith...because**

1. **The Message is Clear and Simple (2)**

² And the Lord answered me: "Write the vision, make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it.

Habakkuk – Wanting the Lord's response – Personally & Nation | 'You're gonna want to write down' Vision preserved & publicized...all who read would know...certainty of fulfillment | Papyrus vs. Tablet Prophecy lasting relevance = preserved | **God's Word isn't susceptible to changing conditions**

- 'make it plain' – God's Word is not meant to be complicated or inaccessible
- 'run who reads it' – message is important & urgent **Old Time News 'Stop presses' – Phone Booths**
Three implications: God's Word: Timeless – Simple – Urgent

We need to think about God's Word & our response to it in these terms...we'll be tempted to wander:

- **Timeless** – Implications / commands / promises...matter less or differently...nope! Eternal & pass
 - **Simple** – Doctrine may be difficult | The Gospel is simple – 5 = 'JESUS DIED TO SAVE SINNERS'
 - **Urgent** – Never lose sight of urgency | Run | Judah | Lost – **How long? I don't know...God does**
- In these short verses...the entirety of the Scripture can be summarized...Clear and Simple**

2. **God's timing is true and perfect (3)**

³ For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.

2 predictions: 1st = Babylon | 2nd = **When will wickedness be judged & righteousness restored | Relate** God answers...but not with a set of dates, or a list of signs or symbols – 'Appointed Time'

- **'It hastens toward the goal'** – puffs and pants | God's fulfillment = runner racing...finish line
- **'it will not lie'** – Broader context = Every single Promise of God will come to pass...exactly!
- **Tough** - 'If it seems slow, wait for it' – **HATE: Golf – Bank – Theme Park – Bathroom at movies**
Patience is a part of faith - Patience is a virtue what carries a lot of wait!
People give up their confidence in God when trial is fierce and protracted
- Preserver saints – True character revealed in tested patience of faith – Distinguishing mark of believers
Confidence building statement that renews contentment = **'will surely come; it will not delay'**
Promise 1 – Babylon Will Destroy (586) | 2 – Babylon Will Be Destroyed (538) | 3 – Restore (Jesus)
MOSES = Midian – Egypt – 40 years – Land – Dead | Wait faithfully – Watch Patiently – Trust Abundantly
Hold onto God through the storm...don't let go till He does | God knows appointed time – not delay

3. The wicked will die by their pride (4a & 5) | Next 2 = Not just central theme Habakkuk...Scripture

⁴ "Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith. ⁵ "Moreover, wine is a traitor, an arrogant man who is never at rest. His greed is as wide as Sheol; like death he has never enough. He gathers for himself all nations and collects as his own all peoples."

Pride of the Babylonians – 'Puffed up' = **Bloated Toad – Eaten so much...What pride does spiritually**

- **'It is not upright within him'** – He is going the wrong way – Twisted
- Not known worship a god, but by their worship of themselves and of their own strength (v.11)
- Metaphoric V.5 – 'Wine a traitor' – 'Arrogant never at rest' – 'Greed as Sheol' – 'Death never enough'
- Drunk – always thirsty | Appetite – never satisfied | Greed – consuming | Death – never day off
Andrew Carnegie 19th – 'How much will be enough' – 'Just a little bit more'

Babylonians = entire nations weren't enough - Never satisfied because they never could be = Pride

The thing about pride: it doesn't discriminate...Parasite that can attach itself to any soul as a host.

- Universal sin – First – Isaiah 14:14 'Make myself' Strange creature; never objects to its lodging
 - Doesn't care how much or little someone has, how rich or poor they are, how old or young
- This description doesn't just apply to Babylon, it applies to the entirety of humanity apart from God
- Whenever: Self-reliance– Intellectual achievement – Artistic - Wealth - Might – Birth
Whenever confidence is placed in human prowess and not in God for the achievement of the satisfying and secure manner of living, there true life cannot be had

Terrifying word...**'his soul is puffed up'** – Inner being | How pride kills...tells your soul...don't need God

4. **The righteous will live by faith (4b)**

⁴ "Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, **but the righteous shall live by his faith.**

The juxtaposition between the belief and the unbelief – The way of righteousness is the way of God (Judah) People of God...have faith – (Babylon) will get justice in My time | **Don't wander!**

- Righteous submits to God – The wicked submits to no one
- The righteous trust God - The Wicked is arrogant – I don't need God – I can take care of myself
- Wicked make themselves secure by any means necessary – Righteous flee to God for security
Wicked trust their own strength – Righteous recognize their weakness...trust in God's strength
It is by faith in the righteousness of God alone that we can stand in faith

Waiting can be some of the most difficult and trying times in the life of a Christian...Why...When

You already have more than all the world combined...Faith...live by it

This simple phrase sums up the entirety of what it means to be right with God

The righteous will live by their faith = Encapsulates the entirety of our experience as God's people

This verse in Habakkuk is quoted three times in New Testament

How this verse is used...gives us confidence to renew our contentment – **End with verses remember**

God's people are identified by their:

Romans 1:16-17 - ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

- **Salvation: Romans 1:16-17**
Gal. 3:11 - Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith."
- **Sanctification: Galatians 3:11**
Heb. 10:36 **'For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised...(38) my righteous shall live by faith'**
- **Perseverance: Hebrews 10:38**
This is all the confidence you need...no matter how long you wait...

The message is clear and simple

1. God's timing is true and perfect
2. The wicked will die by their pride
3. The righteous will live by their faith

The Lord's Table

As we go to The Lord's Table in light of this message – I think you know what to do

If Jesus is Lord of your life – join us | You don't have to be a member, just a believer | But if not...

- If you haven't trusted him to save you from your sin – let the bread and cup pass
- Take the time to reflect on what's preventing you from doing so
No matter who you are – examine your heart = Supernatural
- B/c if you eat and drink without considering repentance
Bible says you will be guilty of showing disrespect and irreverence toward God = Judgment
So examine yourself, and then...Get right with God; Commit to do so with others; Ask him for help . . .
And rest in the grace of his sacrifice for your sins...Anything else is a recipe for disaster

Hang on to your elements and I'll lead us in taking them together (**Pray**)