

Habakkuk – Embracing Faith – ‘To Cling To’ – We think of ‘Embrace’ as a Rom Com – All is lost...better

Twister: 1996 | Bill Paxton – Philip Seymore – Helen Hunt | Storm Chasers | F-5 | Pipe

Habakkuk is about clinging to faith, to trust in God, despite the evil of the days.

Reflects both: Trust His sovereign plan & our desperate for God’s power to deliver us

Last: Habakkuk’s prayer | Crying...God ‘Violence...Evil...People...Do Something!’ | **Response** | **READ**

Alarm – Dogs – Kids – Spill Coffee – Keys – Phone – ‘It can’t get any worse’ – Rain – ‘Had to say it’

Not: Alarm’s – Kids – Keys | **Civilization failing:** Divided...decline = Leadership – Prosperity – Security

• God’s Laws = Ignored | Worship = Given to Idols | Corruption and Greed = Currency of the day

• Habakkuk cries out for God...‘do something’ – God answers prayer | **Accomplish my will = worse**

Just lie to me | BI – God is Still Good When Hardships Increase

How is that a dead fly in the soup of our modern day – philosophical, feeling-based, Christianity?

Wealthy – Prosperous...Not ...some things wrong with God | **Redeemed – Righteous – Reliant**

Not how powerfully we can stand above hardships, but how faithfully we trust His power through hardships

1. Trust God Even When: His Purpose is Unbelievable (5)

“Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told. | David Letterman - Top Ten Verses Used to Prove the Wrong Point

Command – ‘Look...See...Wonder and be astounded’ – Stunned and Shocked – **Too bad to be true**

Unexpected – Habakkuk – Chaldeans...landlord – ‘Building...tenants’ – Blow it up...with you in it

• Commands are plural – “you all” look and see – Not just Habakkuk, but for all the people.

Wasn’t private revelation...God revealing purpose whole nation – **Unbelievable = Too often | Egg Salad**

• But God literally - What’s about to happen is beyond belief. **Two ways Gods plans unbelievable**

○ **Defies Earthly Comprehension:** Assyria – Babylon – Israel | **Mighty nation = Titanic Syndrome**

Job 12:23 ‘He makes nations great, and destroys them; he enlarges nations, and leads them away.

○ **Challenges Spiritual Understanding:** When we cry out to God = **Fix or Reason**

We want temporary reprieve...God’s purpose = eternal restoration | **May not fix doesn’t owe us reason**

Habakkuk...true today – God’s may not give what you want...Trust Purpose is Good...hardship +

Prayer Answered...submit to God’s will...answer isn’t what you expected - hardship increased

Hard to believe...Hardship in your life = See it Different - Redeemed – Righteous – Reliant

Rather believe that hardship has a godly purpose – Not believe in God...hardship = no purpose

WE DO NOT HAVE HOPE BECAUSE TODAY IS GOOD – WE HAVE HOPE TODAY BECAUSE GOD IS GOOD

Trust him when his purpose seems unbelievable, and when...

2. Trust God Even When: His Plan is Unfathomable (6-10)

For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, who march through the breadth of the earth, to seize dwellings not their own. They are dreaded and fearsome; their justice and dignity go forth from themselves. Their horses are swifter than leopards, more fierce than the evening wolves; their horsemen press proudly on. Their horsemen come from afar; they fly like an eagle swift to devour. They all come for violence, all their faces forward. They gather captives like sand. At kings they scoff, and at rulers they laugh. They laugh at every fortress, for they pile up earth and take it. Not a bedtime story | Sometimes my job to teach...

• Unfathomably bad stuff - Verses = terrible imagery | Script what’s about to happen Jerusalem

God’s plan may be unfathomable to us, but that’s not because it’s random = Always purpose

Let’s look at how the events unfold, piece by piece: Teach – Love / Hate...good either way

(6) For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, who march through the

breadth of the earth, to seize dwellings not their own.

Ancient Israelites writing the script for how God would deal any number of things:

• New righteous king like Josiah - liberating & reuniting Southern & Northern Israel

• Egypt Pharaoh would be nice – give stuff back - live in peace | Rise up Warrior Messiah

Bible True - Would not have written into the plan was the Chaldeans - See how they’re described?

Haughty – Hasty – Harmful – Hardened – Hellbent | Fly Through History

• Marching across with violence as their co-piolet – Taking lands from people | one-by-one

• 100 – Early 700 = Assyrian empire conquered Israel in North – Allied w/Egypt controlled Judah

• Assyria losing – 612 - Chaldeans, Babylonians, overthrow Nineveh (Jonah) - Jerusalem in sights.

• Commanded by a general Nebuchadnezzar – reputation for quick, ruthless conquest:

(7) They are dreaded and fearsome; their justice and dignity go forth from themselves.

• Nebuchadnezzar = feared...ancient world | Not just...big army – Own Rules | **Geneva Convention**

• Didn’t offer any sort of justice or dignity except his own arbitrary whim – Swift & Terrible

(8) Their horses are swifter than leopards, more fierce than the evening wolves; their horsemen press

proudly on. Their horsemen come from afar; they fly like an eagle swift to devour.

Babylonians were famous for how quickly they could sweep in and win a battle.

• Cavalry provided an immense advantage - Charioteers - operate with both speed and range

• 4-man chariot - Driver, 3 archers provide forward cover for the cavalry and the rest of the army.

Speed - Strength – Brutality - that was unheard of – **Leopards – Wolves – Devouring Eagles**

(9) They all come for violence, all their faces forward. They gather captives like sand.

In 597BC, the Babylonians advance on Jerusalem and overwhelm it

• Take the king & 10,000 captives...educated and skilled people back to Babylon

• Install a new king in Jerusalem & start collecting tribute... **gets even worse: Look at v10:**

(10) At kings they scoff, & at rulers they laugh. They laugh at every fortress, for they pile up earth and take it.

• 8 years after 1st invasion - 589BC - King Babylon installed in Jerusalem stopped paying

• Babylon returns and lays siege to Jerusalem - Hostage for 2 years | **Famine – Starvation**

• Finally - Literally pile up earth to make a siege ramp that lets their army march into the city.

City = Destroyed | People = Captivity | Temple = Burned to ground | Unfathomable Plan...God’s Plan

First words of v.6 – ‘For behold, I am raising up...’

Crying out in distress...God your response doesn’t feel like a solution. And it’s not.

• Not in the way Israel would have wanted...God’s plan wasn’t to solve temporary problems

God is going to punish Israel for its generations- long rejection | Preserve for future restoration

3. Trust God because: His Promise is Unchangeable (11)

(11) Then they sweep by like the wind and go on, guilty men, whose own might is their god!

Victory isn’t proof of righteousness – God can/does use anyone – No one is exempt...Babylon would fall

God’s plan is beyond Habakkuk’s comprehension...not ours...**Paul Harvey | Rest of the story**

This was an act of judgment, but ultimately set the stage for the ultimate act of mercy

Everything in history = coming of Christ – God had the cross in view - Gospel

After destruction of Jerusalem - 600 - prepared...Messiah | Politically – Prophetically – Spiritually

• Politically – Alexander the Great unite the entire eastern world under one rule and one language

• Prophetically – he preserved the royal line of David from which the Messiah would come

• Spiritually – Need for a Messiah - Rescue not just from worldly turmoil but - Sin and Rebellion

His plan is to establish an eternal kingdom and restore sinful people to himself

And he’s written the script for his purpose, which God is showing himself as judge, but also deliverer

• Israelites – OFF | Captives = Daniel – Shadrach – Meshack – Abednego | Trusted GOD! Mind Blown

• 600 years later - Paul missionary – Gospel - Preaching to Jews - Descendants – Strange | **QUOTES**

Acts 13:40-41 ‘Beware, therefore, lest what is said in the Prophets should come about: ‘Look, you scoffers, be

astounded & perish; for I am doing a work in your days, a work that you will not believe, even if one tells it to you.’

Learn from God’s work then - Need to repent, to believe in God & his promised salvation, is at hand

Because things are coming which they have no idea about

• Habakkuk wrote & 20 years later the Babylonians besieged Jerusalem and destroyed the temple.

• Paul quotes him in 50 AD. 20 years later, the Romans besiege Jerusalem, and destroy the temple

Why does this matter? God = clear – Israelites Habakkuk’s | 1st century | Us | **We don’t know...God does**

More going on than we know – Sovereign | Myopic Syndrome | Puzzle Piece | Universe | Cross

• Our hope isn’t in buildings – institutions - human strength | Jesus Christ – Unchangeable Promise

What’s gonna happen next? Get better or worse in the world? Will my life become easier or harder?

I have no idea - Love tell you, ‘All the problems of today will get better tomorrow. Worst behind you.’

• **But I can’t. Hardships may increase but I can promise you God is still good the best is ahead**

EVERY PUZZLE PIECE IS A MOMENT IN TIME WITH A REDEMPTIVE PURPOSE

History is under God’s control – So is the future – Christ has come...Christ will come again

Trust God when His answer to your cry isn’t what you wanted – While God doesn’t owe you an

explanation...He’s given you one – Whatever it is...it has a redemptive purpose in Christ