

Sermon Title: The Question
Sermon Series: Habakkuk
Scripture: Habakkuk 1:1-11
Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron



_____ are you _____ when I see and face evil?

Where is God when things aren't going how we expect them to as faithful followers of Christ? – Jason Seville

Habakkuk 1:1-11 ESV

1 The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw.

Habakkuk's Complaint

2 O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear?

Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save?

3 Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong?

Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise.

4 So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth.

For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted.

The Lord's Answer

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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

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

Who is Habakkuk?

1 The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw.

Habakkuk's _____ to God

2 O Lord, **how long** shall I cry for help,
and you will not hear?
Or **cry** to you “Violence!”
and you will not save?

Deuteronomy 28:1 ESV “And if you **faithfully obey** the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.

Deuteronomy 28:15 ESV 15 “But **if you will not obey** the voice of the Lord your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.

Habakkuk 1:3-4 ESV Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong?

Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted.

2 Kings 23:31-32 ESV Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. And he did what was **evil** in the sight of the Lord, **according to all that his fathers had done**. And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest and the priests of the second order and the keepers of the threshold to bring out of the temple of the Lord all the vessels made for **Baal**, for Asherah, and for all the host of heaven. He burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron and carried their ashes to Bethel. And he deposed the priests whom the kings of Judah had ordained to make offerings in the high places at the cities of Judah and around Jerusalem; those also who burned incense to **Baal**, to the sun and the moon and the constellations and all the host of the heavens.

2 Kings 23:10 ESV And he defiled Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, that no one might burn his son or his daughter as an offering to **Molech**.

It's as if you weren't really God!

Just = conforming to a standard of correctness

Judges 21:25 ESV In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was **right in his own eyes**.

"God's Word lasts and God has the last word."—Steve Darling

Justice = Doing what's _____ based on what God says is _____.

Habakkuk 1:5-6 ESV “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. 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.

Habakkuk 1:7-8 ESV 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.

Habakkuk 1:9-10 ESV 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.

Habakkuk 1:11 ESV Then they sweep by like the wind and go on, **guilty men**, whose own might is their god!”

Their _____ is their _____

When we ask, “Where are you God when I see and face evil?”

1. You can go to _____ with your _____.

2. God is _____ and His timing is _____.

Habakkuk 1:5 ESV “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.”

“God doesn’t owe us an explanation every time He does something we don’t understand.”—Bob Goff

3. God is _____ and will _____ evil.

Acts 2:22-24 ESV “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know — this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

You can _____ God with the greatest _____ because He’s God.

Small Group Questions:

1. Have you ever asked the question, Where are you God when I see and face evil? Why do you ask that question?
2. What was one thing from Habakkuk’s conversation with God that surprised you?
3. Was there anything that God did that was uncomfortable for you? Why?
4. Why do we tend to view God as if he works for us and should do what we want him to do?
5. How is it a comfort to know you can bring your complaints to God?
6. How is it a comfort to know that God will Judge Evil?
7. When praying this week, ask God your toughest question.