

"Why God?" (Habakkuk 1:1-11)  
For the week of March 19, 2017

### Background

Little is known about Habakkuk. He was a contemporary of Jeremiah and possibly Ezekiel. The timeframe for this book is around 640 – 609 B.C. His name means "to embrace." This book is unusual as a prophetic book in that it never addresses the people of Judah directly but is a dialogue between the prophet and God. Habakkuk is a man with questions, a man some have called the "doubting" Thomas of the Old Testament. He is disturbed about God's apparent indifference to the sin of His own people. Yet the theme of Habakkuk is faith. He has been called the prophet of faith. The key verse in this book is 2:4 which says "...the righteous shall live by his faith," which has been quoted three times in the New Testament (Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; and Hebrews 10:38).

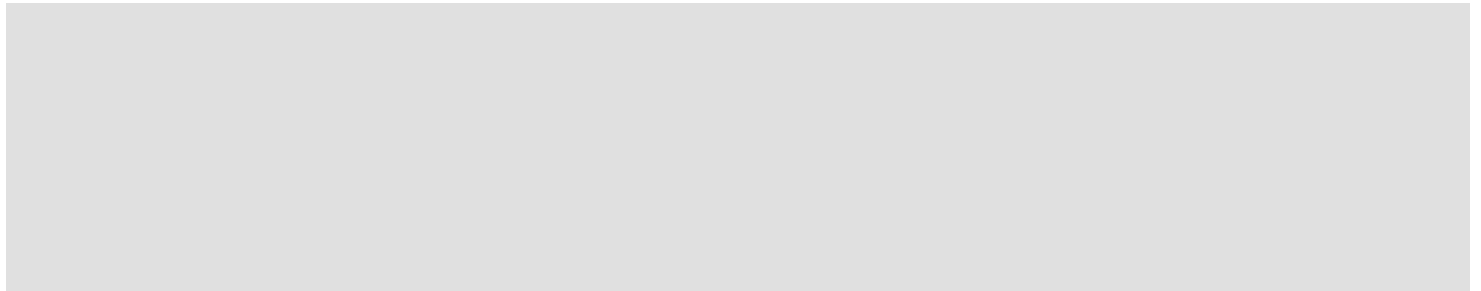
### Opening

Read Habakkuk 1:1-11. This passage opens like a blast from a hot furnace. It has the prophet directly questioning God. Over the years, everyone has grappled with Habakkuk's concern. Notice in this passage it is Habakkuk talking directly to God and God responding directly to Habakkuk.

### The Big Question

Habakkuk believes God is letting sin go unpunished and there is no justice.

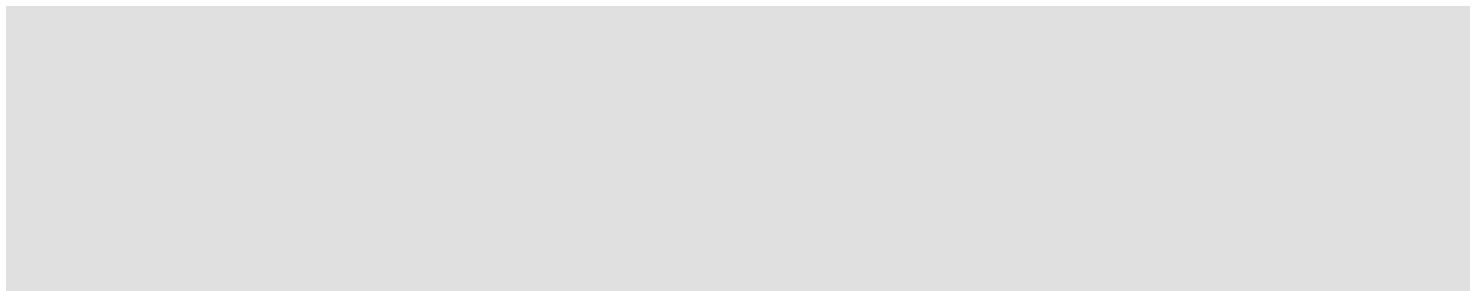
Why does God permit evil? Discuss in your group.



### 2<sup>nd</sup> Big Question

Habakkuk is disappointed that God does not seem to be answering his prayers.

Does God answer all our prayers? If yes, how? If no, why not? Discuss in your group.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Big Question

God responds that he is already answering Habakkuk's request; it is just not yet seen by Habakkuk. God's judgment is in God's timing. With evil abounding today, do people truly believe in the judgment of God? If yes, why does it not happen promptly? Discuss in your group.

### A Final Big Question

This passage starts with Habakkuk complaining directly to God.

Is it ok to complain to God? Why? Is it ok to be angry with God? Why? Discuss in your group.

### An Answer to "The Big Question"

Today the world asks, "Why doesn't God do something about sin?" He has! Around 2,000 years ago He gave His Son to die for us. He arose on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day and is alive today. He intruded into the affairs of the world. And He says that He is going to intrude *again* in the world. God is moving!

Read Acts 13:38-41. How does Paul say that God provided a salvation? What is that salvation? Notice how Paul quotes Habakkuk 1:5 in verse 41.

### Pray

Spend time in prayer praising and thanking God for all that He has done and is doing. Thank God that sin is conquered through the blood of Jesus. Thank God that He works His will in mysterious and unexpected ways.