

Habakkuk – 18 June 2026

“God Handles Evil Perfectly”

Introduction – Read Vs 1

- *Little is known of the author but he was a professional prophet without additional occupation
 - *The book is a conversation between Habakkuk & the Lord regarding evil
 - *It was written after 612 BC when Babylon conquered the Assyria Empire and before 605 BC when Babylon 1st invaded Israel
 - *Habakkuk asks and God answers the question of evil
- Today, we break the question of evil into two parts and see Habakkuk’s response to God’s answers**

#1 – Why does God allow wickedness? (Chap 1:2-11)

Read 1:2-4

1. We often ask the question, ‘why does God allow suffer’

- a. Habakkuk starts back a layer asking about the evil that causes the suffer
2. All suffering & pain come from the human evil the perpetuated it – look at the break down here
 - a. I see grief & trouble everywhere (vs 3)
 - b. Strife/contention are allowed to grow (vs 3)
 - c. The true, good way is ignored (vs 4)
 - d. There're more wicked sinners than righteous (vs 4)
 - e. Legislation that's produced is corrupt (vs 4)
3. Habakkuk's question, "why aren't You stopping this wicked evil NOW"

Read 1:5-6 (*Now the answer to the question*)

1. Chaldeans are the ancient wisemen of Babylon
2. God is the allowance behind the Assyrians collapsing and the Babylonians rising
 - a. The Lord knows how to move the pieces of the world to accomplish His will
3. This is the answer to why do you allow wickedness to continue
 - a. Answer – God *will* bring it to an end

Read 1:7-11

1. These wicked Babylonian will attribute the power & success to their false god
 - a. They form their own idea of justice (vs 7)
 - b. Their army will destroy nations (vs 8-10)
2. Why would God allow the Babylonians to be used to end Israel's evil by their own wickedness – we'll deal w/ this next
3. So the initial answer to why does God allow evil is that God *will* bring it to an end

#2 – Why does God use wicked people? (Chap 1:12-2:20)

Read 1:12-13

1. Though Israel was wicked, Habakkuk saw Babylon as far worse than them
2. If God is pure and sinless, how can He use the wicked?

Read 1:14-17

1. Already struggling with the question of why God uses wicked people, Habakkuk now asks, ‘will this go on forever?’
2. If God was to avoid using wicked people, then He couldn’t use any of us
 - a. We’re all just varying degrees of bad
 - b. God knows how to use sin & sinners sinlessly

Read 2:1

1. Habakkuk expected a rebuke from the Lord in His answer to Habakkuk

Read 2:2-3 – *(Now the answer to the question)*

1. Publish this answer far and wide – all need it
2. The answer won’t be seen until the end of an experience

Read 2:4-5

1. Don’t be concerned so much about who’s being used to bring God’s judgement, be concerned with which side of judgement you’re on

- a. The proud lifted up soul is judged
 - b. But the just will live by faith
2. This famous phrase is used 3 times by Paul
 - a. To the Romans (Rom 1:17)
 - b. To the Greeks (Gal 3:11)
 - c. To the Jews (Heb 10:38)
 3. Now 5 taunts begin against Babylon

Read 2:6-8

1. #1 - Even the Babylonian will get what's coming to them
 - a. Babylon's conquering is seen as "taking out a loan" – a loan that would need paid back
2. God is not mocked, whatever a man sows, that shall he also reap
3. God has to use people to mete out His justice, but they'll get what's coming for their own sins

Read 2:9-11

1. #2 - Those who want to be great will be humbled
2. Babylon loved executing judgement on other, therefore they will receive their own judgement

3. By promoting yourself over others, you're bringing future harm to your own soul
 - a. Every sinful dollar gained is a future pound of force that will come against you

Read 2:12-14

1. #3 - All the world's wicked men will eventually crash upon themselves to be replaced by the glory of God's kingdom

Read 2:15-17

1. #4 – Babylon, the one who deceived others in order to rob them, we have it returned to them
2. Babylon famously wipe out Tyre of Lebanon including the island city of Tyre

Read 2:18-20

1. #5 – The very motivation of the wicked is futile
2. The very gods and passions they're living for are worthless
3. All the wicked *will* receive their punishment

#3 – Habakkuk rises above with praise (Chap 3)

Read 3:1-2

1. Habakkuk accepts that he lives in a world in which evil is continually punished
2. He simply asks that the Lord would add compassion during the judgment

Read 3:3-15

1. A glorious poetic picture of the Lord coming at His 2nd Coming to bring judgment & justice to all
 - a. Notice judgement comes by His Word (s 9)
 - b. Notice in judgement, He saves His people (vs 13)
2. We live our days with this true hope that God will set all things right by *His* perfect justice

Read 3:16-18

1. Even if in this world it's just wicked men afflicting wicked men – yet I will praise God

2. If I never receive any relieve in this life – yet I will praise God
3. This is not easy to endure – but it's true
 - a. Read John 16:33

Read 3:19

1. When I abide in the Lord's truth & strength, I'm made to thrive and prosper
 - a. I have hinds' feet on high places
 - b. I've been made to succeed in a difficult place and to reach new heights!

Conclusion

Today we've faced that age-old question of evil...

1. **Why does God allow wickedness?**
 - a. God Himself made provision to bring it to an end
2. **Why does God use wicked people?**
 - a. There's no one else to use
3. **Habakkuk praises God**
 - a. That he can rise above it

Three Examples From Scripture

1. Joseph of old (**The world**)
 - a. Sold & enslaved by wicked men
 - b. God allowed this to bring much good to Joseph & all Israel
 - c. The wicked were subdued under Joseph
2. The Blind Man of John 9 (**The Flesh**)
 - a. Born blind, physically enslaved
 - b. God allowed this to reveal His glory to this man and many more people that day
 - c. The wicked Pharisees were condemned by this blind man for not believing
3. Job (**The Devil**)
 - a. Devastated with loss of nearly all things
 - b. God allowed this to receive the glory of Job's faith for God's glory & Job's good
 - c. The Devil himself will be judged by such failures