

How long, Oh Lord?

JONAH & JESUS
THE BOOK OF HABAKKUK

Question:

A similar inquiry continues: What do we do when our theology of God (His nature) does not correspond to our actual experience of God (His actions)?

Key Ideas:

- 1. Language of Lament: While it is a form of protest, a way to process emotion, and a place to voice confusion,** it is those who are closest to God who feel the most freedom to speak this way with Him.
- 2. Listening & Living in the Tension: We may personally know God, but we don't know what to do with Them**
 - a. God created this world that *feels* (at times) like a discouraging & terrible place, and seems to allow it to go on
 - b. **Examining ourselves:** Are we slipping into Babylon's subtle and perverse idolatry? The worship of making our lives easy at others' expense?
- 3. Living by Faith in God's Vision and Purpose: 2:4b** One who is faithful lives by faith by the indwelling of Christ. He is the inward righteousness of God whose faithfulness allows us to endure.

Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

- ¹² Are you not from everlasting, O LORD my God, my Holy One? We shall not die. O LORD, you have ordained them as a judgment, and you, O Rock, have established them for reproof.
- ¹³ You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong, why do you idly look at traitors and remain silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he?
- ¹⁴ You make mankind like the fish of the sea, like crawling things that have no ruler.
- ¹⁵ He brings all of them up with a hook; he drags them out with his net; he gathers them in his dragnet; so he rejoices and is glad.
- ¹⁶ Therefore he sacrifices to his net and makes offerings to his dragnet; for by them he lives in luxury, and his food is rich.
- ¹⁷ Is he then to keep on emptying his net and mercilessly killing nations forever?
- 2:1** I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower, and look out to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint.
- 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."

Application: Be ready to dialogue, Trust God's Timing & Vision

Archetypes of evil will continue to come until the end, so Habakkuk's questions and God's promise are for every time and place.

1. God's first interest is not our prosperity or political power, living for our whims. He is concerned about shaping us into a faithful people.
2. The issues before us are never perpetual or enduring. God is, and so we live by His faithfulness, in faith.