

HOPE IN THE DARK—1 WHERE ARE YOU, GOD?

- WHY DOESN'T GOD SEEM FAIR?

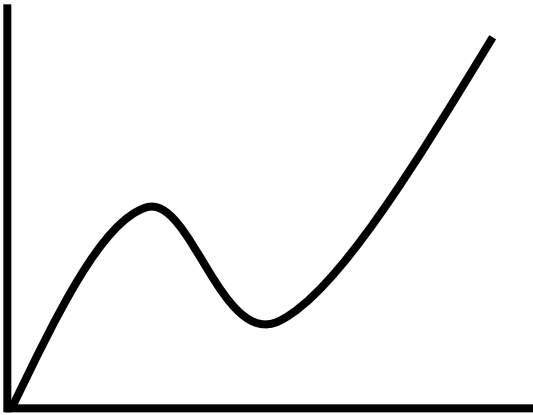
How long, LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, “Violence!” but you do not save? ³ Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? ...
Habakkuk 1:2-3

- *Habakkuk*: to embrace or to wrestle.

Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds. ⁴ Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails ...
Habakkuk 1:3-4

HABAKKUK'S PROBLEMS WITH GOD

- 1) You don't seem to really care.
- 2) You aren't doing much when you could.
- 3) What you are doing, doesn't seem fair.



GOD'S RESPONSE

“Look at the nations and watch—and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.” Habakkuk 1:5

“I am raising up the Babylonians, that ruthless and impetuous people, who sweep across the whole earth to seize dwellings not their own. ⁷ They are a feared and dreaded people ... ⁹ they all come intent on violence ...” Habakkuk 1:6-7, 9

- A committed believer can both **WRESTLE** with honest questions and **EMBRACE** a genuine faith in God.

LORD, are you not from everlasting? My God, my Holy One, you will never die. You, LORD, have appointed them to execute judgment; you, my Rock, have ordained them to punish. ¹³ Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves? Habakkuk 1:12-13

“What if honestly acknowledging your doubts is your first step toward building a deeper faith? What if embracing your secret questions opens the door for a maturing knowledge of God’s character? What if drawing closer to God, developing genuine intimacy with him, requires you to bear something that feels unbearable? To hear him through an ominous utterance, to trust him in the moment of doom, to embrace his strength when you’re weak with a burden? What if it takes real pain to experience deep and abiding hope?” From *Hope in the Dark*