

10/31

Habakkuk 2:2-4

**Hab 2:2-4 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.**

It is appropriate that we take a bit of an excursion on this Reformation Sunday to talk a little about another kind of prophesy. There are similarities here and differences as well to the revelation that we have been studying. This verse is particularly appropriate for this day in that it applies specifically to Luther.

Martin Luther was struggling. He felt the heavy weight of his sin and the overwhelming responsibility to be good enough for God to give him righteousness. In 1515, he read Romans 1:17 and it struck him like it hadn't struck him before.

**Rom 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (17) For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”**

Luther looked at the Greek word for righteousness (instead of the Latin one) and saw that the righteousness referred to is God's righteousness given to believers freely as a gift. Luther now understood that righteousness didn't come from him and what he could do. Martin Luther said at that moment he became born again. So where does Habakkuk come into this? These passages are a quote from Habakkuk

Hab 2:4 “Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.

Questions:

How is this passage similar to other prophesies that we have been studying?

How is it different?

Lutheran Doctrine Questions:

How might this passage fit in with Luther's overall understanding of salvation?

How do we get “puffed up” in the faith? In our lives?

What are the dangers of this condition?

Gen 3: 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. (5) For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

As the F.B. Meyer commentary says: The order of temptation is always the same. The Tempter without, and within the strong desire for sensual gratification, with the secret hope that somehow the consequences may be avoided. The eye inflames passion; passion masters the resistance of the will; the body obeys its impulse; the act of gratification is followed immediately by remorse and guilt. Then we need the second Adam!

If we forget our faith and lean on our own works, what usually happens?

So when we assume hubris, where does that put us in relation to God?

What is God's response?