



# A QUESTION OF CHARACTER

## LESSON 7

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# WORD FOR THE JOURNEY

- **James 1:21-22** Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.
- Doers: *poietai*: a performer; especially a poet
- Hearers: *akroatai*: those who listen without participation
- **LEARNING GOAL FOR THIS CLASS:**  
Learning to hear God and respond to Him in such a way that His purposes can be fulfilled in us
- Sometimes God's will hurts

**IF THE RIGHTEOUS LIVE BY FAITH,  
WHERE DOES THIS FAITH COME FROM?**

# PRIVILEGED FOR A REASON

- **1 Peter 2:9** But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God's* OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
- **Isaiah 9:2** The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them.
- **John 1:4-5** In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.
- Comprehend: *katalambano*: to wrap around: to understand, or to overpower

**WE ARE THE PROCLAIMERS OF A MESSAGE  
THAT CANNOT BE EXTINGUISHED**

# THINGS WE DON'T UNDERSTAND

- **Habakkuk 1:2-4** How long, O LORD, will I call for help, and You will not hear? I cry out to You, "violence!" Yet You do not save. Why do You make me see iniquity, and cause *me* to look on wickedness? Yes, destruction and violence are before me; strife exists and contention arises. Therefore the law is ignored and justice is never upheld. For the wicked surround the righteous; therefore justice comes out perverted.
- wickedness: *amal*: anguish arising fruitless work for wrong causes
- Habakkuk sees wickedness and injustice but realizes that he is powerless to stop it
- He does the right thing in bringing his case to God; but he really doesn't like God's response
- What is different now than the time of Jehoiakim?

# GOD ANSWERS HABAKKUK

• **Habakkuk 1:5-11** "Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because *I am* doing something in your days— you would not believe if you were told. For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that fierce and impetuous people who march throughout the earth to seize dwelling places which are not theirs. They are dreaded and feared; Their justice and authority originate with themselves. Their horses are swifter than leopards and keener than wolves in the evening. Their horsemen come galloping, their horsemen come from afar; They fly like an eagle swooping *down* to devour. All of them come for violence. Their horde of faces *moves* forward. They collect captives like sand. They mock at kings and rulers are a laughing matter to them. They laugh at every fortress and heap up rubble to capture it. Then they will sweep through *like* the wind and pass on. But they will be held guilty, they whose strength is their god "



# THINGS ARE DIFFERENT

- **2 Chronicles 20:5-6** Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD before the new court, and he said, "O LORD, the God of our fathers, are You not God in the heavens? And are You not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand so that no one can stand against You.
- **2 Chronicles 20:10-13** "Now behold, the sons of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom You did not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt (they turned aside from them and did not destroy them), see *how* they are rewarding us by coming to drive us out from Your possession which You have given us as an inheritance. O our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You." All Judah was standing before the LORD, with their infants.

# GOD'S ATTRIBUTES/CHARACTER

- **Habakkuk 1:12-13** Are You not from everlasting, O LORD, my God, my Holy One? We will not die. You, O LORD, have appointed them to judge; And You, O Rock, have established them to correct. *Your* eyes are too pure to approve evil, and You can not look on wickedness *with favor*. Why do You look with favor on those who deal treacherously? Why are You silent when the wicked swallow up those more righteous than they?
- **2 Samuel 7:9-13** "I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth...When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom

# BABYLON IS PAGAN

- **Habakkuk 1:15-17** *The Chaldeans* bring all of them up with a hook, drag them away with their net, and gather them together in their fishing net. Therefore they rejoice and are glad. Therefore they offer a sacrifice to their net and burn incense to their fishing net; because through these things their catch is large, and their food is plentiful. Will they therefore empty their net and continually slay nations without sparing?
- **Genesis 10:6-12** The sons of Ham *were* Cush and Mizraim and Put and Canaan....Now Cush became the father of Nimrod; he became a mighty one on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD." The beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. From that land he went forth into Assyria, and built Nineveh and Rehoboth-Ir and Calah, and



# PAGAN DEITIES OF BABYLON

- Ba'al and the ba'als, Ishtar (Ashtoreth), Sin, Tammuz
- Josiah had to clean out the temple because worship of these idols had been done in the temple
- **2 Kings 23:12-13** The altars which *were* on the roof, the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the LORD, the king broke down; and he smashed them there and threw their dust into the brook Kidron. The high places which *were* before Jerusalem, which *were* on the right of the mount of destruction which Solomon the king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Sidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Milcom the abomination of the sons of Ammon, the king defiled.
- **Ezekiel 8:14** Then He brought me to the entrance of the

# HOW THE RIGHTEOUS LIVE

- **Habakkuk 2:1-4** I will stand on my guard post and station myself on the rampart; and I will keep watch to see what He will speak to me, and how I may reply when I am reproved. Then the LORD answered me and said, "Record the vision and inscribe *it* on tablets, that the one who reads it may run. For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay.  
Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; But the righteous will live by his faith.
- He may have been literally a "watchman on the wall" or he may have been speaking figuratively
- Reproved: *tokachath*: chastened, rebuked
- **Romans 10:17** So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing

# GOD WILL DEAL WITH BABYLON

- **Habakkuk 2:6-10** "Will not all of these take up a taunt-song against him, even mockery *and* insinuations against him and say, 'Woe to him who increases what is not his— For how long— and makes himself rich with loans?' Will not your creditors rise up suddenly, and those who collect from you awaken? Indeed, you will become plunder for them.  
because you have looted many nations, all the remainder of the peoples will loot you— because of human bloodshed and violence done to the land, to the town and all its inhabitants. Woe to him who gets evil gain for his house to put his nest on high, to be delivered from the hand of calamity! You have devised a shameful thing for your house by cutting off many peoples; so you are sinning against yourself."
- Just as He punished Judah, God would punish Babylon

# HABAKKUK'S ULTIMATE STANCE

- **Habakkuk 3:16-19** I heard and my inward parts trembled, at the sound my lips quivered. Decay enters my bones, and in my place I tremble. Because I must wait quietly for the day of distress, for the people to arise *who* will invade us. Though the fig tree should not blossom and there be no fruit on the vines, *though* the yield of the olive should fail and the fields produce no food, though the flock should be cut off from the fold and there be no cattle in the stalls, yet I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation. The Lord GOD is my strength, and He has made my feet like hinds' *feet*, and makes me walk on my high places.
- **2 Corinthians 10:3-5** For though we live in the body, we do not wage war in an unspiritual way, since the weapons of our warfare are not worldly, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds. We demolish arguments and every high-minded thing that is raised up against the knowledge of God, taking every thought captive to obey