

- In answer to Habakkuk's prayer, God reveals that He's raising up Babylon to bring judgment against Judah ... Much like He did a century before when He raised up Assyria to bring judgment against Israel ... God is serious about His word – the people didn't take His word serious enough ... The instrument of judgment God uses will accomplish all He intends ... Yet Babylon stands guilty; God's judgment awaits them – **all evil will be held accountable** (1:11, 2:3)
- Again, the faith of Habakkuk is shown ... He's confident in God's character ... Continues to hold up God's word ... Recognizes God's sovereignty in what He ordains ... God alone is his hope ... Yet his question remains: how can this be – how can You allow such wickedness to judge a more righteous people ... Habakkuk struggles to see the fairness of what God is doing ... He struggles to understand the purpose of why it must happen like this
- *Suffering shakes the beaker of our lives*¹ ... The unseen sediment within is revealed whenever life shakes ... The providence of God – **purposeful sovereignty** ... Everything God does, every way He governs, there's purpose – **Ep1:11** ... Above all that happens – in creation, life, world – a sovereign God sits on the Throne ... He's bringing to completion every detail of His eternal plan ... For our good and for His glory ... Purposeful sovereignty
 - *God causes all things to happen, but He does so in such a way that He upholds our ability to make willing, responsible choices, choices that have real and eternal results for which we are held accountable*² ... Bible doesn't explain how this works in detail ... Just that both are true without contradiction ... God's sovereign over evil ... He allows evil to happen, but takes no pleasure in evil ... He works plan through evil situations, but is never to be blamed for evil ... **Ac4:27-28 (2:23, 3:18)** ... **Jr1:12, Is55:11 – Hk1:12, 2:3**
- **WHY Evil:** 1) evil points to the gravity of sin and rebellion against God, 2) evil is an agent God uses to bring both punishment and purification, 3) thru evil, God means to awaken people to Christ and His return
 - *The same sovereign God who can stop _____, yet doesn't at this time, is the very sovereign God who sustains me in it* ... In both situations, we resist turning our focus inward ... We allow our focus to be turned upward, so that God's faithfulness in Christ is what we cling to ... *This is the paradox at the heart of lament: the sovereign God who ordains our suffering is the same God who in Christ, enters it, bears it, redeems it*³
 - The One who can stop it, is the One who can sustain you in it, if He chooses not to stop it ... Because He's the One who enters it, bears it, and redeems it before anything even appears in your life ... God uses evil, and ordains evil to happen, but He does so being victorious and sovereign over evil / suffering
 - *Following Jesus often means being broken again and again, and then bound up again and again with the hope that we have in Christ*⁴ ... Who better to bind us up than Him we're united to ... We bring everything to Christ – He's the only One who can restore us, heal us, sustain us ... This is how we persevere in the face of adversity

1: Mark Vroegop, Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy

2: Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, *The Providence of God*3-4: Kara Dedert, *Learning to Lament*, TableTalk Magazine Feb 2026