

WHERE IS GOD?

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF HABAKKUK



“Where Is God? Introducing the Book of Habakkuk”

SELECTED SCRIPTURES



“God is infinite creativity, infinite love, infinite compassion. In fact, those are the qualities attributed to him in the holy Qur’an and in Islam also.

God is not the problem, Larry. It's our ignorance about our inseparability with each other and our tribal...



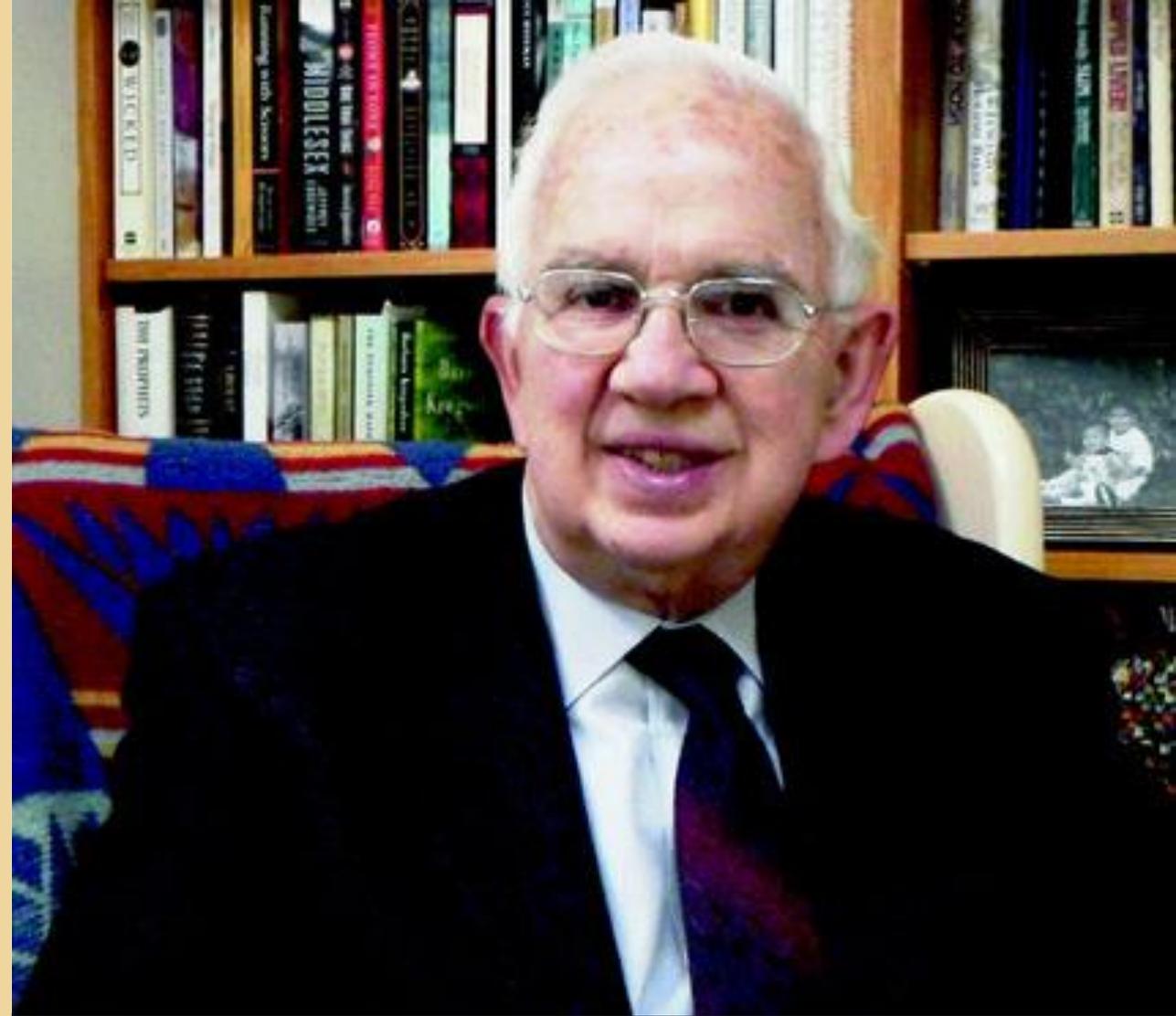
Deepak Chopra

“...instinct. We've sacrificed God. We've made a brand name out of God, and we've gone to war. All the racism, all the hatred, all the prejudice, all the bigotry, all the ethnocentrism, all the plundering of the world is in the name of God, but the name of God is not 'God.'”



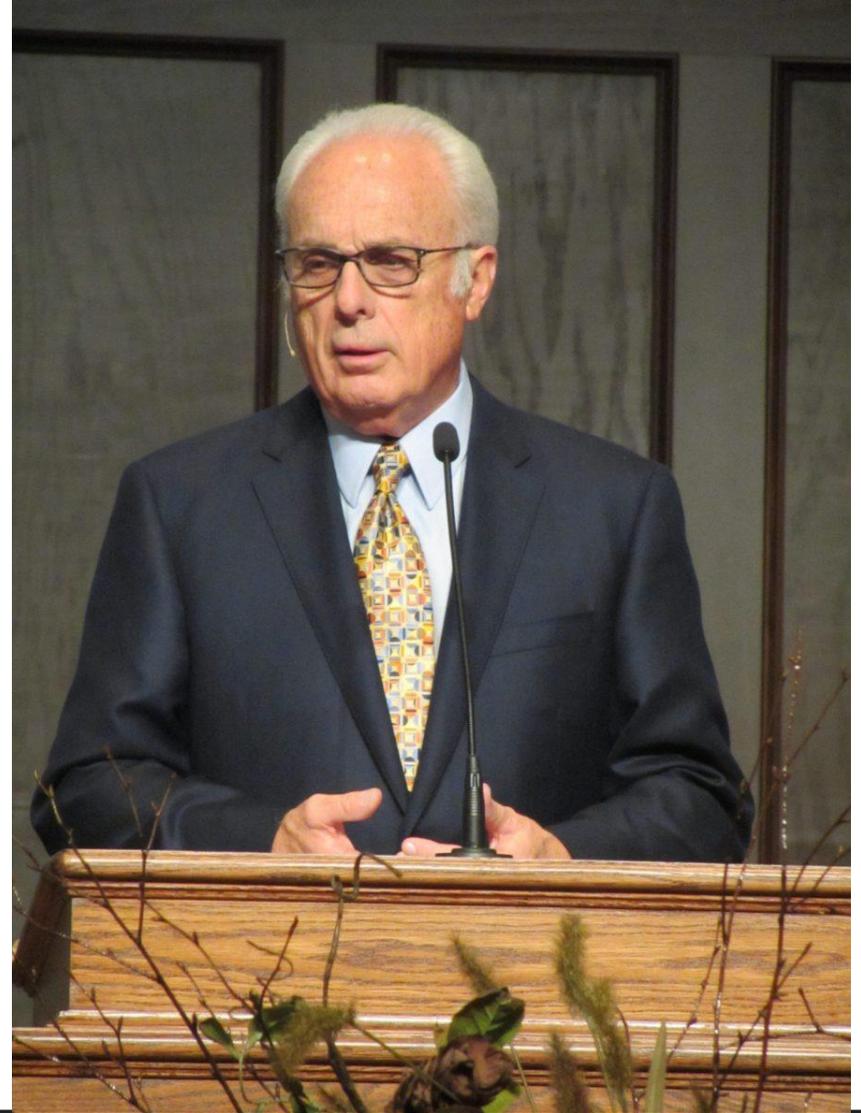
Deepak Chopra

“I don't find God in that terrible accident – in that act of cruelty. I find God in the courage of firemen and police. I will continue to find God in the willingness of the survivors to rebuild their lives.”



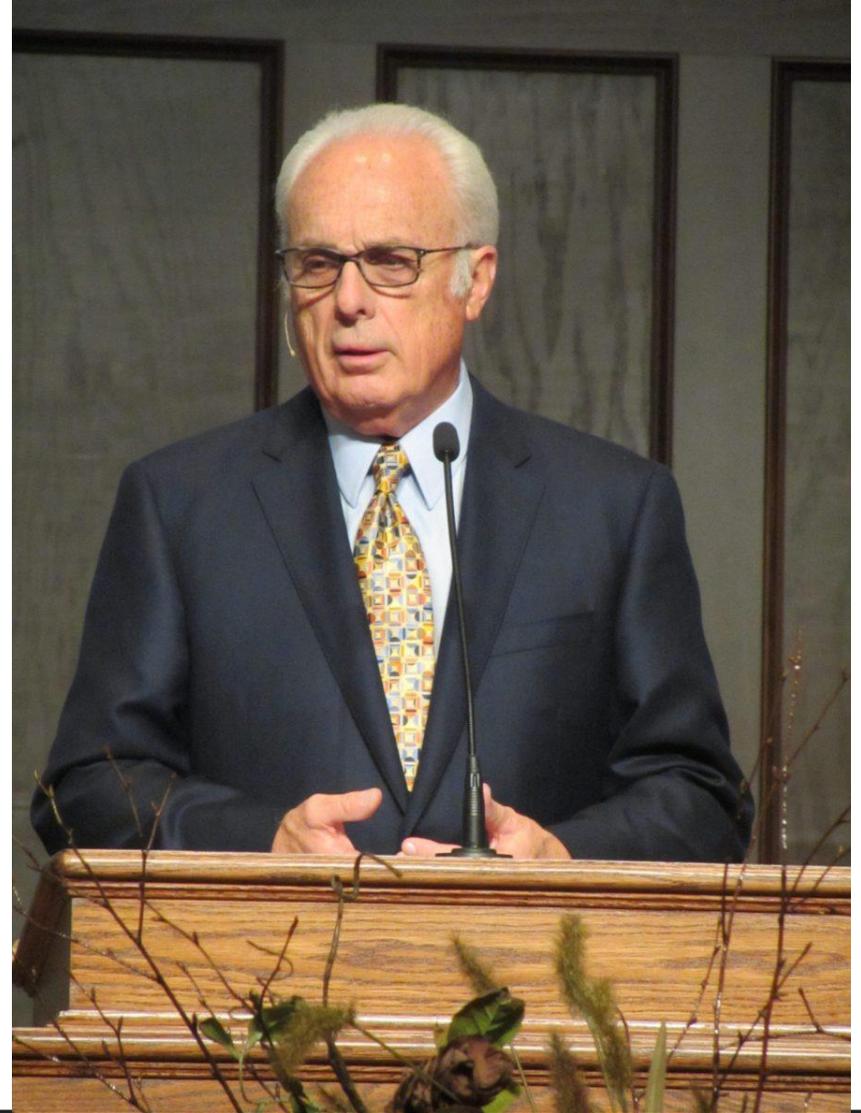
Rabbi Kushner

“I don't question whether there is a God. I don't even question what God chooses to allow. It's not a matter of my opinion. As a Bible teacher and one who believes that the Bible is the authoritative word of God, Scripture tells us that God is absolutely sovereign; that everything that occurs within the...



John MacArthur

“...framework of his purpose. That is not to say that God creates evil. The Bible says He does not, nor does He do evil, nor does he tempt anybody to do evil. But evil exists. It's everywhere. And God can overrule that for his own purpose. The question is, what is his purpose in this? And that's a big question.”



John MacArthur

1. Why does God not seem to care?
2. Why do the righteous suffer and the unrighteous prosper?
3. Why does God use unrighteous nations to judge righteous people?
4. Where was God when _____?

Some Big Questions

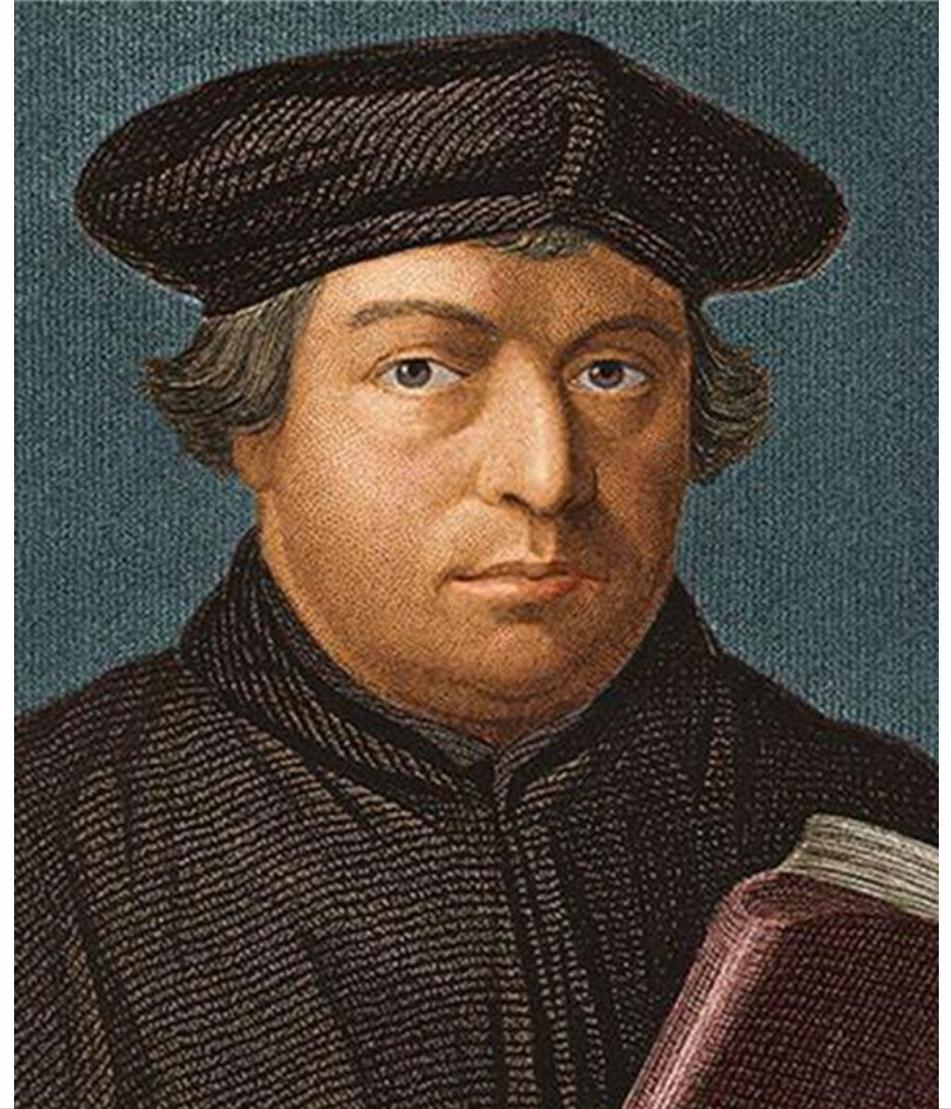
BIG TRUTH (KEY POINT)

When you need help, don't just ask, "Why?"
Ask, "Who?"

- Name meaning – “to wrestle” or “to fold one’s hands” or “to embrace, to caress”

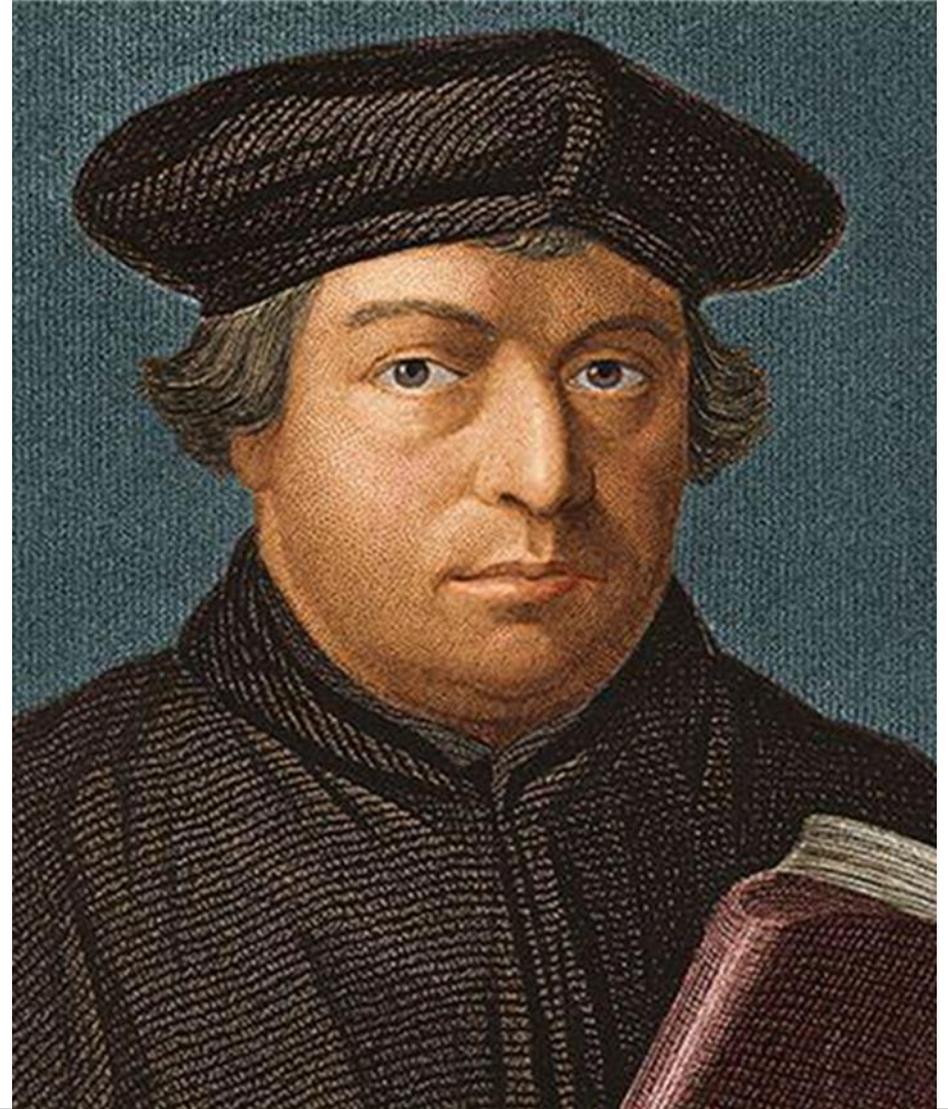
Who Was Habakkuk?

“Habakkuk signifies an embracer, or one who embraces another, takes him into his arms. He embraces his people, and takes them to his arms, i.e., he comforts them and holds them up, as one embraces a weeping child,...



Martin Luther

“...to quiet it with the assurance that, if God wills, it shall soon be better.”



Martin Luther

- Name meaning – “to wrestle” or “to fold one’s hands” or “to embrace, to caress”
- From the Levite line
- Lived during the 7th-6th centuries B.C.
- A contemporary of Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and Zephaniah
- Ministered under Josiah (640-609 B.C.) and Jehoiakim (609-598 B.C.)
- Referenced in the Apocryphal book Bel and the Dragon

Who Was Habakkuk?

- Before the Babylonian Captivity of 586 B.C.
- Probably before the first attack in 605 B.C.

When Was Habakkuk Written?

“These ‘catastrophic events of the last decades of the seventh century B.C. and the first decades of the sixth century B.C. left many people reeling and disillusioned. It was an agitated time, characterized by rapid political change, international turmoil, bloody military encounters, and a growing rebellion against the demands of the covenant by the great majority in Judah. Prophetic activity was feverish, not only with the ministries of people like Jeremiah, Nahum, Zephaniah, Huldah, and Ezekiel, but also with false prophets in abundance.”

NAC Commentary

Purpose of the Book: to show God's presence by demonstrating His sovereignty

EARLY in the Book

questions and dialogue
and honesty

petitions, negotiation and
discourse

LATE in the Book

hymn-like worship

Praise, theology and
worship

Progression in Habakkuk

- Quoted three times in the N.T.
 1. Romans 1:17
 2. Galatians 3:11
 3. Hebrews 10:38

“The Just Shall Live by Faith”

“His [Habakkuk’s] prayer is not merely an example of cosmic whining that somehow made it into the Bible; it is an enquiring prayer of a believer in anguish who knows he can approach this good and sovereign God with honesty. Surely, Habakkuk’s fully...



Mark Dever, *The Message of the O.T.*

“...informed, heart-engaging prayers puts to shame many of our small and self-focused ‘bless my toe’ or ‘help my report to go well’ prayers. I’m not saying we shouldn’t pray about toes and reports, I’m simply noticing that Habakkuk’s prayers were taken up...



Mark Dever, *The Message of the O.T.*

“...with much more.
He looked out at what
was happening to other
people, and then he
prayed with heart.”



**Mark Dever, *The
Message of the O.T.***

I. An “Interrogation” of God (Chapters 1-2)

A. The Prophet Is Perplexed with God (Chapter 1)

1. About God’s Supposed Indifference (1:1-4)

a. How can God be indifferent? (1:1-2)

b. How can God be insensitive? (1:3-4)

2. About God’s Will (1:5-2:1)

a. When will God discipline? (1:5-11)

b. Why does God use evil to discipline others?
(1:12-15)

c. Why would God excuse idolatry? (1:16-2:1)

- I. An “Interrogation” of God (Chapters 1-2)
 - A. The Prophet Is Perplexed with God (Chapter 1)
 - B. The Prophet Waits on God (Chapter 2)
 - 1. By Writing God’s Word (2:2-3)
 - 2. By Trusting God’s Word (2:4-5)
 - 3. By Declaring God’s Word (2:6-20)

I. An “Interrogation” of God (Chapters 1-2)

II. An Intercession to God (Chapter 3)

A. A Faith That Surrenders (3:1-2)

B. A Faith That Sees (3:3-15)

C. A Faith That Soars (3:16-19)