

WHERE IS GOD?

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF HABAKKUK



“Righteous Complaining”

HABAKKUK 1:1-4

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Matthew 5:10-11

¹⁶ Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, ¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹ When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say,...

Matthew 10:16-22

...for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. ²⁰ For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹ Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²² and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Matthew 10:16-22

Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

John 15:20

KEY POINT:

Learn to complain to God and not at
God.

I. Why Is God Indifferent? (vs 1-2)

- “Burden” in NKJV and KJV or ”pronouncement” in NASB, or “prophecy” in NIV
- More than a prophetic message
- A desperate message

“Oracle”

- The death of Josiah in 609 B.C. at the hands of Neco (II Kings 23:29)
- King Uriah's death by assassination (Jeremiah 26:20-23)
- Jeremiah's prophecies being burned (Jeremiah 36)

What Violence?

Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed speedily, the heart of the children of man is fully set to do evil.

Ecclesiastes 8:11

¹ How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? ² How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? ³ Consider and answer me, O Lord my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, ⁴ lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

Psalm 13:1-4

*10 How long, O God, is the foe to scoff?
Is the enemy to revile your name forever?
11 Why do you hold back your hand, your right hand?*

Psalm 74:10-11a

They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

Revelation 6:10

though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer;

Lamentations 3:8

I. Why Is God Indifferent? (vs 1-2)

II. Why Is God Unreasonable? (vs. 3-4)

29 Then the king sent and gathered together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. 30 And the king went up to the house of the LORD, with all the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the priests and the Levites, “all the people both great and small. And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant that had been found in the house of the LORD. 31 And the king stood in his place and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD...

II Chronicles 34:29-33

...and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant that were written in this book. ³² Then he made all who were present in Jerusalem and in Benjamin join in it. And the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers. ³³ And Josiah took away all the abominations from all the territory that belonged to the people of Israel and...

II Chronicles 34:29-33

...made all who were present in Israel serve the LORD their God. All his days they did not turn away from following the LORD, the God of their fathers.

II Chronicles 34:29-33

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.

Ephesians 2:14-17

KEY POINT:

**Learn to complain to God and not at
God.**

“Habakkuk’s experiences show us that God is willing to hear our needs and to help us deal with our problems, even when he does not answer in the way that we expect or in the way that we ask.”

Quote from the *New American Commentary*