

1:1-1:11 First Prayer and Response

1-4 Habakkuk's Prayer

5-11 God's Response

1:12-2:20 Second Prayer and Response

1:12-2:1 Habakkuk's Prayer and Posture

2:2-20 God's Response

2-5 Call to Faith

6-20 Five Woes on the Wicked

3:1-3:19 Final Prayer of Faith**Why does God Permit Injustice?***Habakkuk, Part II*

Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

Stuart W. Bryan

I. Does God care about injustice? (Ps 7:10ff)**II. Habakkuk's Second Prayer**

¹² Are You not from everlasting, O LORD my God, my Holy One? We shall not die. O LORD, You have appointed them for judgment; O Rock, You have marked them for correction. ¹³ You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, And hold Your tongue when the wicked devours A person more righteous than he? ¹⁴ Why do You make men like fish of the sea, Like creeping things that have no ruler over them? ¹⁵ They take up all of them with a hook, They catch them in their net, And gather them in their dragnet. Therefore they rejoice and are glad. ¹⁶ Therefore they sacrifice to their net, And burn incense to their dragnet; Because by them their share is sumptuous And their food plentiful. ¹⁷ Shall they therefore empty their net, And continue to slay nations without pity? ¹ I will stand my watch And set myself on the rampart, And watch to see what He will say to me, And what I will answer when I am corrected.

A. Returns to first principles (1:12-13b)

1. God's Character – Eternal, Holy, Almighty
2. God's Covenant with His People (cf. Ps 103:6-9; Pr 3:11-12)

B. Wrestles with his doubts in the presence of God (1:13c-17)

1. Why use the treacherous? (13c-e)
2. Why permit men to be treated like fish by idolaters? (14-17)

C. Commits his doubts to God (2:1)

III. God's Second Response

²Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision And make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it. ³For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry. ⁴"Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith. ⁵Indeed, because he transgresses by wine, He is a proud man, And he does not stay at home. Because he enlarges his desire as hell, And he is like death, and cannot be satisfied, He gathers to himself all nations And heaps up for himself all peoples."

A. Call to Faith (2-5)

God promises to judge wickedness. We either respond to this promise in humility and _____ or in pride and _____. On the one hand, we humble ourselves and believe that God will fulfill His promise and give the unjust their due. On the other hand, we puff ourselves up and respond in unbelief, rejecting God's word and embracing the very wickedness we decry: *the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life* (1 Jn 2:16).

B. Five Woes on the Wicked (6-20)

IV. Application

A. Handling the “whys” of life

“Those that expect to hear from God must withdraw from the world, and get above it, must raise their attention, fix their thought, study the Scriptures, consult experiences and the experienced, continue [constant] in prayer, and thus set themselves upon the tower.” M. Henry

B. Trusting God throughout life (Ps 37:34-38; Heb 10:32-39)

The basic nature of life is either humility and _____ or pride and _____.

³⁴Wait on the LORD, And keep His way, And He shall exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you shall see it. ³⁵I have seen the wicked in great power, And spreading himself like a native green tree. ³⁶Yet he passed away, and behold, he was no more; Indeed I sought him, but he could not be found. ³⁷Mark the blameless man, and observe the upright; For the future of that man is peace. ³⁸But the transgressors shall be destroyed together; The future of the wicked shall be cut off.

Paul uses Habakkuk to urge his readers to follow Christ in faith and not to turn away from Him because of persecution or injustice. Paul writes:

³²But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: ³³partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; ³⁴for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven. ³⁵Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. ³⁶For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

*³⁷ “For yet a little while,
And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.
³⁸ Now the just shall live by faith;
But if anyone draws back,
My soul has no pleasure in him.” (Hab 2:3b-4, LXX)*

³⁹But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

C. Learning to run (Hab Is 40:27-31)

Some people are perpetually stuck in Habakkuk 1 – *How long, O Lord? Why, O Lord?* But God is giving His answer to Habakkuk so that we might move from Habakkuk 1 to Habakkuk 3:

¹⁷ Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls— ¹⁸ Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer’s feet, And He will make me walk on my high hills.

So how do we do it? By _____. Meditate on God’s character, treasure God’s Word.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, And speak, O Israel: “My way is hidden from the LORD, And my just claim is passed over by my God”? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. ³⁰Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, ³¹But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

V. Conclusion (Heb 12:1-2)