

“VOICES – THE MINOR PROPHETS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT”
HABAKKUK: THE RIGHTEOUS WILL LIVE BY FAITH [PART II] 01.20.19

Why study the Old Testament?

*“The Old and New Testaments together provide us with a single great narrative of salvation. Each is incomplete without the other. The Old Testament is more than a ‘backstory.’ It is the unfolding of **God’s great plan of salvation** in human history, a plan that will emerge out of Israel in Jesus Christ.”* David F. Watson
Professor of New Testament, Scholar & Pastor

Habakkuk’s Ageless Question

*“Why does the Lord permit the **righteous to suffer while the wicked prosper?**”*

- Injustice
- Destruction
- Strife
- The law is paralyzed
- More wicked than righteous
- Wrongful suffering
- Violence
- Conflict
- Justice never prevails
- Justice is perverted

God’s Response

“The Lord replied, ‘Look around at the nations; look and be amazed. For I am doing something in your own day, something you wouldn’t believe even if someone told you about it.’”
Habakkuk 1:5

Habakkuk says: “Look at this!” ~ God says: “Look at that!”

“I am raising up the Babylonians, a cruel and violent people. They will march across the world and conquer other lands.”
Habakkuk 1:6

God’s Invitation

- Like Habakkuk, we can take our **struggles** straight to God
- It’s okay for believers to have **questions** and **faith** simultaneously; to **accept** what we don’t understand and **trust** in God despite all circumstances

For Habakkuk...

The question at stake is **NOT** how one is _____ righteous
BUT

How the righteous might _____ evil’s apparent domination

“I will climb up to my watchtower and stand at my guardpost. There I will wait to see what the Lord says and how he will answer my complain.”

Habakkuk 2:1

1. Faith often requires _____ for God’s justice

“Then the Lord said to me, ‘Write my answer plainly on tablets, so that a runner can carry the correct message to others. This vision is for a future time. It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled. If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed. The righteous will live by their faithfulness to God.’”

Habakkuk 2:2-4

2. Faith comes from a _____ based not on visible circumstances but in God, who is ultimately in control of history

“Look at the proud! They trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked. But the righteous will live by their faithfulness to God.”
Habakkuk 2:4

3. God will ultimately _____ to His world

*“What sorrow awaits...
You thieves...
You who build big houses with money gained dishonestly...
you who build cities with money gained through murder and corruption...
You who make your neighbors drunk...
You who say to wooden idols...”*

Habakkuk 2:6-20

“But the Lord is in his holy Temple.”

Habakkuk 2:20