

Sermon Summary: Trusting God When Evil Prevails (Habakkuk 1:12-2:1)

This sermon explores how we should respond when God's actions do not make sense to us. In Habakkuk 1:12-2:1, the prophet struggles to understand why God is using an evil nation like Babylon to bring judgment on Judah. Instead of turning away, Habakkuk remembers who God is, wrestles with Him in faith, and waits for His answer

1. Remember Who God Is (Habakkuk 1:12-13)

Sometimes, life feels confusing. We look around and see injustice, suffering, and evil, and we wonder, "Where is God? Why does He allow this?"

This is how Habakkuk felt. But before he complains to God, he does something very important—**he reminds himself of who God is.**

Habakkuk reminds himself of four key things about God:

1. God is Eternal – “Are you not from everlasting?” (v.12)

- Habakkuk reminds himself that God has always existed.
- He is not surprised by anything happening in the world.
- He has seen everything in history and is always in control.

2. God is Holy – “O Lord, my Holy One” (v.12)

- God is completely pure and perfect.
- He cannot tolerate evil, and He will always bring justice.
- Even when we do not understand His ways, we can trust that He is good.

3. God is Sovereign – “You have ordained them as a judgment” (v.12)

- This means that God has a plan, even when things look chaotic.
- Even when we see evil, God is still in control.
- He sometimes allows difficult things to happen for a greater purpose.

4. God is Just – “You who are of purer eyes than to see evil” (v.13)

- Habakkuk knows that God hates evil and injustice.
- He asks, “God, if you are holy, why do you allow wicked people to succeed?”
- This is a difficult question, but Habakkuk trusts that God will judge all sin in His time.

How This Applies to Us:

- When life is confusing, we must first remember who God is.
- He is eternal, holy, sovereign, and just.
- Even when the world seems unfair, we can trust that He is still in control.

2. Wrestle with God in Faith (Habakkuk 1:14-17)

Have you ever prayed to God **but didn't like the answer He gave?** That is what happens to Habakkuk. When God tells him that Babylon will conquer Judah,

Habakkuk is shocked and upset. He trusts God, but **doesn't understand** why God would allow such a cruel nation to rise to power.

But instead of turning away from God, Habakkuk takes his struggles to Him.

Habakkuk describes what he sees in the world:

1. The world feels like chaos – “You make mankind like the fish of the sea” (v.14)

- Habakkuk feels like people are weak and defenseless, like fish in the sea.
- The wicked are taking advantage of the weak, and no one is stopping them.
- He asks, “God, why aren't You protecting us?”

2. The wicked are succeeding – “He gathers them in his net” (v.15-16)

- Habakkuk describes the Babylonians like fishermen pulling up fish with their nets.
- They destroy other nations and feel no guilt or shame.
- Worse, they take credit for their success and don't acknowledge God.
- Habakkuk asks, “Why do the wicked get rich while the righteous suffer?”

3. Justice seems delayed – “Is he then to keep on... killing nations forever?” (v.17)

- Habakkuk is frustrated because God has not acted yet.
- He wonders how long God will let evil continue.
- He is wrestling with God but still trusting Him.

How This Applies to Us:

- It is okay to struggle with God when we don't understand His ways.
- Many faithful people in the Bible wrestled with God (David, Job, even Jesus on the cross).
- But we must bring our struggles to God, not run from Him.
- The greatest example of God using evil for good is the cross—where Jesus suffered but brought salvation to the world.

3. Wait Expectantly for God's Answer (Habakkuk 2:1)

After remembering who God is, after wrestling with his doubts, Habakkuk does something very important—he waits.

“I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower, and look out to see what He will say to me.” (Habakkuk 2:1)

A watchman stands on a tower and looks for signs of coming news. He does not sit around lazily. He is alert, prepared, and expecting something to happen.

Habakkuk teaches us two things about waiting on God:

1. Waiting on God is Active

- Habakkuk does not complain and walk away.
- He stations himself like a guard on duty, waiting for God's response.

- Waiting in faith means trusting that God will answer in His perfect time.

2. Waiting on God is Expectant

- Habakkuk believes God will answer, even though he does not know when.
- He does not assume that God has forgotten him.
- God’s timing is not our timing—but He always answers.

How This Applies to Us:

- Sometimes we pray, but God does not answer right away.
- This does not mean God has forgotten us. He is working in ways we cannot see.
- We must trust that God’s justice will come in the right time—just as He promised in Jesus.

Summary

Habakkuk’s story shows us how to respond when we don’t understand what God is doing.

1. **Remember Who God Is** – When life seems unfair, trust that God is still in control.
2. **Wrestle with God in Faith** – Bring your struggles to Him, just like Habakkuk did.
3. **Wait Expectantly for His Answer** – Believe that He will answer in His time.

The greatest proof of God’s justice is **the cross of Jesus Christ**.

If God used the greatest evil—the death of His Son—to bring the greatest good—salvation for sinners—then we can trust Him with the injustices we see today.

Evil will not last forever. Christ will return, and justice will be complete.

Until then, **we are called to live by faith.**

So, when you look at the world and ask, “Where is God?”—remember:

- He is still on His throne.
- He is working, even when we don’t understand.
- He is faithful, even when justice seems delayed.

And one day, all will be made right in Him.

Reflection

1. **Have you ever taken the time to remind yourself of who God is when faced with struggles?** Which of God’s attributes (eternal, holy, sovereign, just) do you struggle to trust the most? When you pray this way, are you trying to change God’s mind, or are you inviting him to change yours?

2. **Can you think of some specific times when you don't understand God's plan?** How did you respond? Is your first instinct to go to God, or complain to others? Do you know you to bring your frustrations, doubt or confusion to Him in faith, or do you worry about doing this?
3. **How do you respond when you have to wait for God's answer when it doesn't come right away?** Can you come up with 3 ways to develop a posture of faithful waiting, like Habakkuk standing at his watchpost? Do you feel like you are more likely to wait "expectantly" or "impatiently"?
4. **How does looking at the cross help you trust God's justice and timing?** Do you struggle with the idea of God using evil for his own purposes? Does the the crucifixion of Christ help you understand this in our own life, or does this feel like a "special case"?