

Habakkuk 1:12-17; 2:1-13

“WHY GOD ALLOWS BAD THINGS TO HAPPEN, PART 2”

Habakkuk had awful things going on in his time, and he asks God, How can you allow these bad things to happen?

This topic parallels our time. We know very little about Habakkuk. There is a hint in the 3rd chapter that he may have been a Levite and a singer. He was a prophet around 620 B.C. Israel has become so corrupt that God has allowed an invasion by the Syrians and assimilated the Israelites into their culture. Babel has risen to power at this time. He lived between King Josiah who was a very good king, loved God, loved people, and was a very good person. After he died, bad kings came along and took Israel down. Bad leaders take a nation down.

Habakkuk 1:12-17

- 12 ¶ *Art thou not from everlasting, O LORD my God, mine Holy One? We shall not die. O LORD, thou hast ordained them for judgment; and, O mighty God, thou hast established them for correction. God, we know you are there. Aren't You in control? Know that you are rising up the Chaldeans to power to correct the Israelites. They are an evil race. How can you allow these evil things to happen? Why don't you do something? How can you sit back and watch these terrible things happen to innocent people?*
- 13 *Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore looks thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holds thy tongue when the wicked devours the man that is more righteous than he? God, since You are so pure and good, look at what the Chaldeans are doing. They are on the rampage down here, abusing others, being horrible and treacherous, and You are not doing anything about it.*
- 14 *And makes men as the fishes of the sea, as the creeping things, that have no ruler over them? God, You're allowing these Chaldeans to be like fishermen and fish for men as they please like creeping things that have no ruler over them.*
- 15 *They take up all of them with the angle, they catch them in their net, and gather them in their drag: therefore they rejoice and are glad. Chaldeans had the mentality of conquer, conquer, conquer. They had no mercy, no caring, no heart. They were never satisfied. They kept conquering countries and killing innocent men.*
- 16 *Therefore they sacrifice unto their net, and burn incense unto their drag; because by them their portion is fat, and their meat plenteous. The Chaldeans are pagans and they are worshipping their instruments of war. They don't believe in God at all.*
- 17 *Shall they therefore empty their net, and not spare continually to slay the nations? God, when are they going to be stopped? Right now they seem unstoppable. They come and take nation after nation, killing those they don't want and making slaves of those they do want.*

Chapter 2:1-13

- 1 ¶ *I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reprov'd. After Habakkuk getting this off his chest and telling God what he feels, Habakkuk is asking for an answer. Habakkuk says he's going to get away from everything and wait for God's answer. He's going to isolate himself and wait on God's answer and think about his own reply.*
- 2 *And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that reads it. God tells Habakkuk to take the vision He's going to give Habakkuk, and write it clearly on a tablet so when others read it, they can understand it and tell others.*
- 3 *For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. What I'm about to tell won't be immediate, but it's coming. God has His own timetable and He doesn't need to change it for anyone. When the answer comes it will come fast and quick, then mark it down when it arrives.*
- 4 *Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith. "soul" means "life". He's talking about Nebuchadnezzar here. Nebuchadnezzar's soul was lifted by his own credit, not others credit.*

God struck Nebuchadnezzar down to make him humble. The just shall live by faith; not might, not the things they accomplish, not the amount of money they have.

- 5 ¶ Yea also, because he transgresses by wine, *he is a proud man, neither keeps at home, who enlarges his desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathers unto him all nations, and heaps unto him all people: He's talking about Nebuchadnezzar again. The Babylonians were known for their great wine parties. Nebuchadnezzar was a proud man and God brought him down to his knees. Nebuchadnezzar didn't want to stay at home; he wanted to go out and conquer more and more. Hell can never be full; it always has room for more people. Our cemeteries keep getting bigger; we keep burying more and more people. That's what it was like for Nebuchadnezzar, and it's like it is today.*
- 6 Shall not all these take up a parable against him, and a taunting proverb against him, and say, Woe to him that increases *that which is not his!* How long? And to him that ladeth himself with thick clay! *After so long a time, after you've taken the people and made slaves of them, they will eventually write a song against him: How long can this go on? How long can the greed of the oppressors go on? It's kind of like the political cartoons of today. This is about people in power who abuse the small people. It is also like the title companies today, where you take your car title and they loan you \$300 and charge you 25% interest on it. It's extortion. People who have wealth and power and abuse those under them are being referred to here; being compared to Nebuchadnezzar.*
- 7 Shall they not rise up suddenly that shall bite thee, and awake that shall vex thee, and thou shalt be for booties unto them? *Ok, you have a lot of people under you, but those people are going to rise up against you and take it all back.*
- 8 Because thou hast spoiled many nations, all the remnant of the people shall spoil thee; because of men's blood, and *for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein. Because you've behaved like you have, it's all going to come back to you. You reap what you sow. Sow discord, reap discord.*
- 9 Woe to him that covets an evil covetousness to his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of evil! *You can do whatever you want, but God's justice is going to come.*
- 10 Thou hast consulted shame to thy house by cutting off many people, and hast sinned *against thy soul. Nebuchadnezzar did wrong, God raised him up but then chastised him in front of the Israelites. The Chaldeans went from being a chastising agent of God to evil abusers.*
- 11 For the stone shall cry out of the wall, and the beam out of the timber shall answer it.
- 12 Woe to him that builds a town with blood, and establishes a city by iniquity!
- 13 Behold, *is it not of the LORD of hosts that the people shall labor in the very fire, and the people shall weary themselves for very vanity? Go ahead and build your great cities and houses, but God will wipe out the evil cities and houses in one fell swoop.*