***God's Response to Evil in the World***
**Habakkuk 1:5-11**

Main Point:
While you may be surprised by God's response to evil, rest confidently in His providence by faith.

1. Despite appearances, God takes evil seriously.

2. The manner by which He deals with it may be surprising to you.

3. Nonetheless, everything is going according to His good plan for the church.

4. This is why you can (and should) rest confidently in His providence by faith.

**Jeremiah 5:12** 12 They have lied about the LORD, And said, "*It is* not He. Neither will evil come upon us, Nor shall we see sword or famine. (NKJV)

**Acts 13:40-41** 40 Beware therefore, lest what has been spoken in the prophets come upon you: 41 "Behold, you despisers, Marvel and perish! For I work a work in your days, A work which you will by no means believe, Though one were to declare it to you.' " (NKJV)

**Job 12:23** 23 He makes nations great, and destroys them; He enlarges nations, and guides them. (NKJV)

**Walter Chantry** "What occurs across the face of the whole earth has been designed by God's eternal, intelligent plan. All kings' hearts are in God's hand, to be turned into the course of God's choice."

**Deuteronomy 28:49-50** 49 The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, *as swift* as the eagle flies, a nation whose language you will not understand, 50 a nation of fierce countenance … (NKJV)

**Isaiah 39:6** 6 "Behold, the days are coming when all that *is* in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,' says the LORD. (NKJV)

**Martyn Lloyd-Jones** "We all tend to prescribe the answers to our prayers. We think that God can come in only one way. But Scripture teaches us that God sometimes answers our prayers by allowing things to become much worse before they become better."

**Micah 4:10** 10 Be in pain, and labor to bring forth, O daughter of Zion, Like a woman in birth pangs. For now you shall go forth from the city, You shall dwell in the field, And to Babylon you shall go. There you shall be delivered; There the LORD will redeem you From the hand of your enemies. (NKJV)

**Walter Chantry** "In Judah's case violent defeat at the hands of Babylon would be a severe chastisement. Plundering of the nation and deportation of its people would be a means to Judah's spiritual improvement."

**Genesis 50:20** 20 But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive. (NKJV)

**Acts 2:23** 23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; (NKJV)

**Martyn Lloyd-Jones** "What God is permitting in the Church and in the world today is related to His great purpose for His own Church and kingdom."

**Romans 8:28-29** 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son … (NKJV)

**Habakkuk 2:4** 4 "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith. (NKJV)

**Rodger Crooks** "When evil is on the rampage and we need hope and stability, we should certainly go to places like Habakkuk … But ultimately we should head straight for the empty tomb."