

Habakkuk 1: 11 ‘God’s Mysterious Ways’

- Many Christians are terrified at the prospect of what the future holds for us.
- Miss the larger picture of the Bible if it’s only about our relationship to God.
- It’s a key theme without which we would be lost- but there’s a larger context.
- The ultimate message of the Bible concerns the condition of the whole world.
- You and I as individuals are part of the whole picture of redemptive history.
- Habakkuk, troubled with Israel’s sin, now hears of Israel’s imminent disaster.

I. God’s Mysterious Ways

- Why does God seem to remain silent in the face of such terrible things today?
- Like Habakkuk, we cry “How long shall I cry and you do not hear?” vs. 2
- We pray for God to revive His church, turn the nation back to himself –
- God answers our prayers in really unexpected ways, as Habakkuk experienced.
- He prayed to God to deliver Israel from their enemies, but God was behind it.
- We must be prepared for God to answer our prayers in unexpected ways.
- God may also use unexpected instruments to do his will, like the Chaldeans.

II. God’s Ways Are Often Misunderstood

- Spiritually careless people are often caught off guard as Habakkuk learned v5
- Trouble with Israel is that they would never believe the prophets. So God raised up the Chaldeans: in AD 70 he raised up Rome to sack Jerusalem.
- God’s ways are more surprising to the world v.11 Chaldeans didn’t believe God was using them, but God who raised them up would put them down
- God’s ways were baffling to the prophet himself. His reaction was a different one, his question was how does God reconcile this with his holiness v. 2

Conclusion and Application

1. **History is under divine control:** (v.6) every nation is under God’s control
2. **History follows a divine plan.** God who sees the end from the beginning has purposed it all & it will be fulfilled at its appointed time: Christ & cross
3. **History follows a divine time table.** God doesn’t consult with man, his plans take place according to his own divine will.
4. **History is bound up with a divine kingdom:** key to the history of the world is the kingdom of God. God through Christ is establishing divine kingdom