

# **EMBRACING GOD'S HARD ANSWERS**

Lessons in trust from Habakkuk

April 8, 2018

## The Characters

- God
- Chaldeans
- Habakkuk

### Questions for God

- Abraham - “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?”(Gen.18:23)
  - Questioning God’s judgment
- Job - “Does it seem good to you to oppress, to despise the work of your hands and favor the designs of the wicked?” (Job 10:3)
  - Questioning God’s justice
- Moses - “Why have you dealt ill with your servant?” (Num.11:11)
  - Questioning God’s plan
- David - “How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?” (Psalm 13:2)
  - Questioning God’s timing
- Jesus - “My God, my God why have you forsaken me?” (Matt.27:46)
  - Questioning God’s presence

## The Genre

## The Setting

## The Plot Conflict

A time when:

- the nation was filled with acts of violence (3b)
- the helpless were treated with injustice (3a, 4a)
- the wicked restricted the freedom of God's people (4b)
- God appeared to have forgotten His people. (2-3a)

### The Character of God

- Communicative
- Unchanging
- Eternal
- Transcendent
- Sovereign
- Just
- Attentive
- Faithful
- Immovable
- Holy
- Powerful
- Merciful

### The Sinfulness of Man

- Proud
- Bitter
- Greedy
- Unjust
- Disloyal
- Violent
- Cruel
- Idolatrous

## **Parts of Complaint Prayer**

1. Address God earnestly
2. Acknowledge God's sovereignty
3. Admit personal struggle
4. Appeal to God's character
5. Accept God's grace
6. Adore God's glory

## **Purpose of Complaint Prayer**

1. To demonstrate our dependence on God
2. To avoid our tendency to grumble
3. To reorient our thoughts and emotions
4. To grow our faith in the Lord