

A. God’s Answer to Our Prayers Is Not Always What We Expect or Want

- Habakkuk wrestles with questions about God’s sovereign control over all activity in this prophetic book written around the time of the Babylonian invasion.
- Habakkuk shows concern for the holiness of God and distress over the unfaithfulness of Judah. God’s answer to Habakkuk’s questions surprises the prophet, who learns that the Lord plans to raise up the Babylonians as instruments of judgment.
- Though God is not the author of evil (James 1:13-15), he is sovereign over all human activity (cf Prov 21:1; Jer 25:9; Ac 4:27-28; 5:30).
- God uses all sorts of means to accomplish his good and perfect will. But for Habakkuk, it is hard to believe that God can seem to be so “unjust” in using evil to accomplish his ends. God’s answer to our prayers is not always what we expect or want.

B. Whatever God’s Answer Is, the Righteous Shall Live by His Faith

- Habakkuk realizes that in the face of the coming armies from Babylon, the only recourse is to respond in faith as God directs (2:4; cf Ge 15 for example of Abraham’s faith).
- We understand Habakkuk’s response better as we see the three times 2:4 is quoted in the NT, Ro 1:16-17; Gal 3:11; Heb 10:36-39. The NT views these vv as crucial to our understanding of faith in Christ as the only way to God.

C. Rejoice in the Lord, Because He is Faithful

- Like Job, Habakkuk reckons with the sovereignty and mystery of God. As Habakkuk exercises faith, he realizes that, like Paul, who learned to be content whatever the circumstances, he can rest in “God my Savior” (3:18). As he faces economic catastrophe, Habakkuk remains joyful.
- Where are you resting and where is your hope? Regardless of particular circumstances can you say, as Habakkuk did, that you “will rejoice in the Lord,” that you “will be joyful in God [your] Savior?” If our society as we know it collapsed and ceased to exist, would the Sovereign God be our strength? Are we ***really*** living by faith or do we just ***think*** we are living by faith?
- Rejoice today in the Risen Christ, who was faithful to His mission, so that all who trust in Him might live eternally w/the Father. Delight that Christ will return and will reign eternally over the new heavens and the new earth. Ask him for a greater faith, so that you may worship him more fully, love him more deeply and serve him more joyfully.