

SERMON OUTLINE

August 7, 2016

WHEN PERPLEXED WITH GOD, PRESS ON IN FAITH!

Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

I. Habakkuk's response to God's first reply

A. Perplexity at God's action

1. A confidence in God's character (v. 1:12)
2. A complaint about God's methods (vs. 1:13-17)

B. Persistently awaiting God's answer

1. Habakkuk's position (v. 2:1a)
2. Habakkuk's patience (v. 2:1b)

II. The Lord's reply to Habakkuk's response

A. Commands concerning the vision

1. Write the vision (v. 2:2)
2. Wait for the vision (v. 2:3)

B. Characteristics of two lifestyles

1. A life of pride and pleasure (vs. 2:4a; 2:5)
2. A life of faith (v. 2:4b)

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, August 7, 2016

Passage: Habakkuk 1:12–2:5

Memory Passage: Habakkuk 2:4b

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT (*Review from the sermon on April 10*)

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Habakkuk 1:1-11.** Describe the nature of the conversation between God and Habakkuk in these verses. How does this conversation set the stage for the dialogue in verses 1:12-2:5?
- (b) What seems to be Habakkuk's chief concerns in verses 2-4 of chapter 1?
- (c) How does God respond to Habakkuk's concerns?
- (d) How should we respond when we see wicked people (or nations) exercising unjust power or control in our world today?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Habakkuk 1:12-17.** How do Habakkuk's statements in verses 12-14 reveal his understanding of God's nature?
- (b) What do you think Habakkuk means by the statement "We shall not die" in v. 12?
- (c) Who does the "them" refer to in v. 12b? What does the last half of v. 12 reveal about Habakkuk's understanding of God's purpose?
- (d) Why do you think Habakkuk uses the analogy of a fisherman to describe the Chaldeans (Babylonians)? What point is he trying to make?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Habakkuk 1:12-2:5.** In verse 16 of chapter 1, Habakkuk describes the "fisherman" as making sacrifices and offerings to his nets, and living in luxury because of them. What might be some modern day examples of similar behavior in our society? Ask the Lord to reveal any areas of your life where you might be guilty of this kind of "idolatry."
- (b) What is the significance of Habakkuk's description of himself taking a stand at his "watchpost" and positioning himself on the "tower" (chapter 2, verse 1)? Is Habakkuk being presumptuous by expecting God to answer his complaint?
- (c) Why would the Lord instruct Habakkuk to "write the vision" and "make it plain on tablets" (v.2)?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Habakkuk 1:12-2:5.** What does verse 3 teach us about God’s purposes and plans? If you had been in Habakkuk’s shoes, do you think the Lord’s statements in this verse would have been a source of comfort or anxiety? (or both?)
- (b) In a few sentences, describe the contrast indicated by the word “but” in verse 4. Who are the people that are being referred to in the first part of the verse? Who are the people described in the second part?
- (c) In the context of God’s message to Habakkuk, does the phrase “the righteous shall live by his faith” (v.4) refer to walking by faith in one’s daily life, being justified by faith, or something else? Give reasons for your answer. (See also: **Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11 & Hebrews 10:38**)
- (d) How do the New Testament writers apply these words in each of the passages listed above (Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38)?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Habakkuk 1:12-2:5.** Verse 5 states that “wine is a traitor” (note: the Dead Sea scrolls say “wealth” instead of “wine”). In what way(s) could wine or wealth be considered a traitor?
- (b) Do you think we are more or less prone to be deceived by wine and/or wealth in our day as opposed to Habakkuk’s day? Why or why not? How do you guard against this kind of deception in your own life?
- (c) In the statement: “His greed is as wide as Sheol...” (v.5), who does the “His” refer to?
- (d) How can “faith” serve as an antidote to the deceitfulness of pleasure or wealth?

DATE: August 7, 2016**PASSAGE: Habakkuk 1:12-2:5*****When Perplexed With God, Press on in Faith!***