

**Pastor Dave – Sunday Sun 4<sup>th</sup> August**

**A study in Habakkuk – Chapter 1:12-17**

**The Post: faith facing A Solution.**

Question – How many of us have asked a question got an answer that we were not expecting?

- We sometimes get answers that we don't expect.

Habakkuk's first prayer received an answer that he wasn't expecting and didn't like!

The faith of this prophet – the crisis of faith as he wrestles with God.

2<sup>nd</sup> Prayer – his response to God and the answer he didn't like.

- 1- The prophets troubling question for God.

- Troubling for Habakkuk – not God!

[Habakkuk 1:12-17 Christian Standard Bible](#)

**Habakkuk's Second Prayer**

<sup>12</sup> Are you not from eternity, LORD my God?

My Holy One, you<sup>[a]</sup> will not die.

LORD, you appointed them to execute judgment;

my Rock, you destined them to punish us.

<sup>13</sup> Your eyes are too pure to look on evil,

and you cannot tolerate wrongdoing.

So why do you tolerate those who are treacherous?

Why are you silent

while one<sup>[b]</sup> who is wicked swallows up

one<sup>[c]</sup> who is more righteous than himself?

<sup>14</sup> You have made mankind

like the fish of the sea,

like marine creatures that have no ruler.

<sup>15</sup> The Chaldeans pull them all up with a hook,

catch them in their dragnet,

and gather them in their fishing net;  
that is why they are glad and rejoice.

<sup>16</sup> That is why they sacrifice to their dragnet  
and burn incense to their fishing net,  
for by these things their portion is rich  
and their food plentiful.

<sup>17</sup> Will they therefore empty their net  
and continually slaughter nations without mercy?

Heavy – honest prayer.

Grappling with more questions from God.

- Why God would you see this as the solution to this?

Many of us would have asked things like this – Why me? – Why us?

We are no different to Habakkuk.

Psalm 79:5 Christian Standard Bible

<sup>5</sup> How long, LORD? Will you be angry forever?  
Will your jealousy keep burning like fire?

Psalm 74:10 Christian Standard Bible

<sup>10</sup> God, how long will the enemy mock?  
Will the foe insult your name forever?

Psalm 82:2 Christian Standard Bible

<sup>2</sup> “How long will you judge unjustly  
and show partiality to the wicked? *Selah*

**Jeremiah 12:1 Christian Standard Bible**

**Jeremiah’s Complaint**

**12** You will be righteous, LORD,  
even if I bring a case against you.  
Yet, I wish to contend with you:

Why does the way of the wicked prosper?

Why do all the treacherous live at ease?

– also – Why are the wicked prospering?

How Jesus responds instructs to the questions.

### **Luke 7:18-23 Christian Standard Bible**

#### **In Praise of John the Baptist**

<sup>18</sup> Then John's disciples told him about all these things. So John summoned two of his disciples <sup>19</sup> and sent them to the Lord, asking, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

<sup>20</sup> When the men reached him, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to ask you, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'"

<sup>21</sup> At that time Jesus healed many people of diseases, afflictions, and evil spirits, and he granted sight to many blind people. <sup>22</sup> He replied to them, "Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with leprosy<sup>[a]</sup> are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor are told the good news, <sup>23</sup> and blessed is the one who isn't offended by me."

- John the Baptist through to the coming of Christ.

John now in prison.

### **Luke 7:18-23 Christian Standard Bible**

#### **In Praise of John the Baptist**

<sup>18</sup> Then John's disciples told him about all these things. So John summoned two of his disciples <sup>19</sup> and sent them to the Lord, asking, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

That is an unexpected question.

**Question** – Should John know the answer to this already?

- Struggle – doubts - wrestling

John's disciples headed off to Jesus to ask this question.

### **Luke 7:20 Christian Standard Bible**

<sup>20</sup> When the men reached him, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to ask you, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'"

Jesus' response is similar to that in Habakkuk Ch 2.

### **Luke 7:21-23 Christian Standard Bible**

<sup>21</sup> At that time Jesus healed many people of diseases, afflictions, and evil spirits, and he granted sight to many blind people. <sup>22</sup> He replied to them, "Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with leprosy<sup>[a]</sup> are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor are told the good news, <sup>23</sup> and blessed is the one who isn't offended by me."

He goes on to tell them...

### **Luke 7:28 Christian Standard Bible**

<sup>28</sup> I tell you, among those born of women no one is greater than John,<sup>[a]</sup> but the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

The prophet has some tough questions for the Lord.

In every case these faithful followers went to the only one who could answer with certainty and clarity and understanding.

It is up to God as to whether he wanted to respond their questions.

- They went to the one who could give the answers - Almighty God.

Reference made to Martin Lloyd Jones in his study of Habakkuk states four point – that we would find beneficial as we wrestle with things like Habakkuk did.

#### 1. Stop and Think.

- Habakkuk stopped and thought about God's response before asking more questions.

2. Restated the basic principle.
3. Applied the principle to the problem.
4. If still in doubt commit the problem to the Lord in faith.

Four very important and necessary things for us today.

More and more we realise that we as a culture are having a problem dealing with tragedy and trauma.

- That we as Christians are often looking to solutions that are away from and apart from God. Things are difficult in life and that we don't know how to process.

Reference made to a book by Abigail Shrier – (not a believer - Jewish author – wrote a book highlighting that we are a culture of perpetual counselling to help manage our trauma, strife and struggles in life.

- We are a people who have lost resilience.
- She has her finger on the pulse of problems that we have in the church as well.

Instead of going to the Lord and doing what we should be doing.

1. Stop and Think from a biblical perspective.

Habakkuk asking... – “Are you not from eternity”?

- He stops and thinks about the Lord.
- He stops and things about eternity.
- He thought about and wrestled with this.

Reminding himself of about the first principles.

Namely - God's character and attributes.

### **Habakkuk 1:12 Christian Standard Bible**

#### **Habakkuk's Second Prayer**

**<sup>12</sup> Are you not from eternity, LORD my God?**

**My Holy One, you<sup>[a]</sup> will not die. – (or we will not die)**

2 Translations on that – both are right.

Focusing on God eternal the Holy one he knows that...

- God will not die.
- No end to God.

Sound theological statement.

But if translation has - We will not die.

- What this translation is saying is equally true.

Habakkuk as a prophet should know, that God has stated through his convenance, that through Abraham's line, the children of Israel the whole earth will be blessed – the Messiah is going to come – the rescuer is going to come.

- There is always going to be a remnant – the children of Israel that will live and continue on.

### **Habakkuk 1:12 Christian Standard Bible**

Habakkuk's Second Prayer

<sup>12</sup> Are you not from eternity, LORD my God?

My Holy One, you<sup>[a]</sup> will not die.

LORD, you appointed them to execute judgment;

my Rock, you destined them to punish us.

- LORD, you appointed them
- God's sovereign plan.

Punish – equally rebuke.

- Using Babylon to rebuke.

### **Habakkuk 1:13 Christian Standard Bible**

<sup>13</sup> Your eyes are too pure to look on evil,

and you cannot tolerate wrongdoing.

So why do you tolerate those who are treacherous?

Why are you silent

while one<sup>[a]</sup> who is wicked swallows up

one<sup>[b]</sup> who is more righteous than himself?

- You are the Holy God.

Isaiah's vision of a Holy God seated on the throne.

"Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty".

Habakkuk understanding the holiness of God.

- Lastly the faithfulness of God.

3 Phrases.

1. You are my God.
2. My Holy One.
3. My Rock.

Habakkuk had a personal relationship with God who would be faithful to him.

John The Baptists Disciples.

Go back and tell him the facts – exactly what you know.

- Remind him of what he already knows.

We are to go back to what we already know – God's sovereignty.

- Not to relying on our feelings.
- Going to counsellors.
- Not picking up the bible that teaches of what God has done over and over again.

We need to go back to the first principles.

End of Verse 13

### **Habakkuk 1:13 Christian Standard Bible**

Why are you silent

while one<sup>[a]</sup> who is wicked swallows up

one<sup>[b]</sup> who is more righteous than himself?

- Comparative analysis.
- Faulty!

Talking about his own people – and now when confirmed with a group more wicked than his own people – he is saying “God why are you putting up with these guys, when they are more wicked than we are”?

We wrestle with this at times.

- “They are more wicked than I am”!

Habakkuk makes a statement.

### **Habakkuk 1:15 Christian Standard Bible**

<sup>15</sup> The Chaldeans pull them all up with a hook,  
catch them in their dragnet,  
and gather them in their fishing net;  
that is why they are glad and rejoice.

Figurative language – actually truth and accuracy and immediacy in what Habakkuk is saying.

The Assyrians when they captured their enemies would do exactly what we read in Habakkuk 1:15.

The Babylonians took this method of torture and used it.

Habakkuk was wrestling through these things.

**Question** – Was he wrestling with not only the promise that God gave to Abraham, but was he thinking through the prophetic word that God gave to Moses and the children of Israel way back in Deuteronomy 30?

- As a prophet maybe he was well versed in the Old Testament.

In Ch 28 and 29 – God says to the children of Israel – just before they go into the promised land.

“You guys if you follow my word, and you do what I told you to do, as Moses has instructed you in the law. That you will prosper, I will bless you and you will go into the land of Canaan the promised land, you will prosper, you will grow. As long as you are obedient to me, I will bless you. But if you follow after idols, the idols of the people who are in that country and turn your back on me, then I am going to punish you, rebuke you, bring judgement upon you.”

Was Habakkuk thinking back to this and I am living in time – That God has already talked about this and what is going to happen.



Deuteronomy 30 – The beautiful thing is...

## Deuteronomy 30 Christian Standard Bible

Returning to the LORD

**30** “When all these things happen to you—the blessings and curses I have set before you—and you come to your senses while you are in all the nations where the LORD your God has driven you, <sup>2</sup> and you and your children return to the LORD your God and obey him with all your heart and all your soul by doing<sup>[a]</sup> everything I am commanding you today, <sup>3</sup> then he will restore your fortunes,<sup>[b]</sup> have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you. <sup>4</sup> Even if your exiles are at the farthest horizon, he will gather you and bring you back from there. <sup>5</sup> The LORD your God will bring you into the land your ancestors possessed, and you will take possession of it. He will cause you to prosper and multiply you more than he did your ancestors. <sup>6</sup> The LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the hearts of your descendants, and you will love him with all your heart and all your soul so that you will live.

A prophetic statement that is a now and not yet. We have seen this happen already to the children of Israel in the past.

There is a time when the Lord will do a great work in the children of Israel in turning their hearts back to the Lord.

Many Jews now don't believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Messiah, but the Lord is still working on them. Their will come a time as is told in the book of Revelation.

- Where there will 144,000 Jewish evangelists going off and preaching the gospel. Telling everybody about Jesus – The Messiah.
- 4. Habakkuk commits the problem to the Lord in faith.

## Habakkuk 1:17 Christian Standard Bible

<sup>17</sup> Will they therefore empty their net  
and continually slaughter nations without mercy?

He still doesn't come to grips with this and so he commits it to the Lord.

## Habakkuk 2:1 Christian Standard Bible

Habakkuk Waits for God's Response

**2** I will stand at my guard post  
and station myself on the lookout tower.  
I will watch to see what he will say to me  
and what I should<sup>[a]</sup> reply about my complaint.

A humility here.

I am still wrestling and will wait upon the Lord.

**Point # 2** – God is Gracious to the Prophet. This comes within God's second answer.

5 oracles to the prophet – they are woes.

- Clear
- Calculated
- Coming
- Certain

Reference - Dr Jim Roscup

## Habakkuk 2:2 Christian Standard Bible

God's Second Answer

**2** The LORD answered me:

Write down this vision;  
clearly inscribe it on tablets  
so one may easily read it.<sup>[a]</sup>

- The Lord answered me – He was not obligated to answer him.

**3** For the vision is yet for the appointed time;  
it testifies about the end and will not lie.  
Though it delays, wait for it,  
since it will certainly come and not be late.

Ref Dr Jim Roscup – “The idea of posting the message publicly.”

Literal translation – The one who reads it may run. – easy to read. Grasps the idea clearly and hastens to tell others.

He says – Habakkuk – “Post this – write it on tablets – so that people may easily read it and grasp it and run to tell other people”.

My message is coming, it’s clear, its calculated, its certain.

**Question** – What is that message.

2 Things.

### **Habakkuk 2:4 Christian Standard Bible**

<sup>4</sup> Look, his ego is inflated;<sup>[a]</sup>

he is without integrity.

But the righteous one will live by his faith.<sup>[b]</sup>

Talking about the Babylonians – arrogant people – God humbles arrogant people – arrogant nations.

But then he says...

But the righteous one will live by his faith.<sup>[b]</sup>

### **Romans 1:17 Christian Standard Bible**

<sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith,<sup>[a]</sup> just as it is written: **The righteous will live by faith.**<sup>[b][c]</sup>

### **Galatians 3:1 Christian Standard Bible**

<sup>11</sup> Now it is clear that no one is justified before God by the law, because **the righteous will live by faith.**<sup>[a]</sup>

### **Hebrews 10:38 Christian Standard Bible**

<sup>38</sup> But my righteous one<sup>[a]</sup> will live by faith;

and if he draws back,

I have no pleasure<sup>[b]</sup> in him.<sup>[c]</sup>

Every one of these talking about salvation.

God goes onto say that there is a coming judgment of the Babylonians. That he isn't turning a blind eye to their sinfulness, he isn't ignoring them.

Dealing with them, justly, rightly, because of their lustful selfishness, their covertness, their ruthlessness, their debauchery and idolatry. These are what the five woes are dealing with.

Concluded with this.

- But the righteous one will live by faith.

In the New Testament it is talking exclusively about salvation.

Here it isn't necessarily talking about salvation, though it is appropriate to this Habakkuk believes in God. Attributed to righteousness, just like Abraham, just like all Old Testament believers.

Habakkuk was an Old Testament believer.

But God is the righteous one will live by his faith.

Saying... "Habakkuk just because you don't understand or grasp everything, wrestling with how God a Holy God uses a sinful group of people to rebuke His people, troubled with what you are told, trying to process this. Guess what?

The righteous one lives by his faith".

God wanting Habakkuk to be trusting him in the midst of what he didn't understand.

God says some beautiful things...

#### **Habakkuk 2:14 Christian Standard Bible**

<sup>14</sup> For the earth will be filled  
with the knowledge of the LORD's glory,  
as the water covers the sea.

There will come a day when the whole world will be filled with the glory of God.

#### **Habakkuk 2:20 Christian Standard Bible**

<sup>20</sup> But the LORD is in his holy temple;  
let the whole earth  
be silent in his presence.

- Going forward we will read of things that are a part of Habakkuk's 3<sup>rd</sup> prayer – a prayer of praise.

Habakkuk begins to see God in a far better way and what He is doing. Habakkuk puts his faith in the Lord and His plan.

As we think about the knowledge of the glory of God.

Challenge.

Are you here this morning and for the very first time the Holy Spirit is really help you to see your sinfulness before God. Scripture makes it abundantly clear that for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Are you beginning to see that God is holy and righteous and that God does deal with sin. At the right time He sent His son Jesus Christ, when you were helpless, to die for you the ungodly. Would you put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ this morning. Acknowledge your sin, repent of it and trust Christ.

ABC of faith.

A – Accept that Jesus died upon the cross to save you from your sin.

B – Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior.

C – Commit your whole life to him.

Christian, are you struggling through some things, are you wrestling with some troubles or will be!

Are you going to go back to what you know?

Going to the Lord about it and not somebody else – letting God bring you through the storm.