



**Series: The Minor Prophets**

**Lesson: 35. Habakkuk, pt. 1 – Asking  
the Hard Questions**

**Passage: Hab. 1**

- **Introduction**

- Author: Habakkuk
- Date: Most likely end of 7<sup>th</sup> century B.C.
- Theme: Theodicy (from man's point-of-view)
  - Why does wickedness go unpunished for so long?
  - Why is wickedness often punished by more wickedness?
  - What is the proper response when God's ways don't make sense to us?

- **Habakkuk's Initial Question (vv1–4)**

- He is expressing frustration with '\_\_\_\_\_ ' prayer.
  - How often do we feel the same when prayer is not answered the way we think it 'should' be?

- He gives a positive example of being frustrated, confused, and hurt and bringing it to God instead of \_\_\_\_\_ about Him.
- His chief question is why won't God intervene when \_\_\_\_\_ is no longer upheld?
  - What is God doing when He allows churches to teach and endorse evil (let alone nations)?
- **God's Response (vv5–11)**
  - Instead of reforming/removing the wicked among them, God is going to \_\_\_\_\_ the whole nation with an even more wicked one.
  - Rejecting God is inviting terrible, unexpected \_\_\_\_\_.

*Acts 13:40–41 – “Therefore take heed, so that the thing spoken of in the Prophets may not come upon you:*

*<sup>41</sup>Behold, you scoffers, and marvel, and perish;*

*For I am accomplishing a work in your days,*

*A work which you will never believe, though someone should describe it to you.’ ”*

- They are directed to look \_\_\_\_\_ of their nation.
  - God already had the wheels in motion to bring about their judgment.

- He goes on to describe just how terrible this enemy will be.
  - They fear no one, answer to no one.
  - This self-sufficient, self-serving nation was actually just a \_\_\_\_\_ to bring about the sovereign God's will.
  
- They will ultimately be held accountable because of \_\_\_\_\_.

- **Habakkuk's Follow-Up (vv12–17)**

- First 'question': Double-checking the facts
  - He is starting from God's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and moving outward.
  - God \_\_\_\_\_ these circumstances.
  - God's promises will stand.
  - God is the One responsible for raising up this wicked nation.
  
- Second question: Why is this transcendent, loving, and sovereign God allowing these evil things to happen?

*Ps. 73:1–3 – Surely God is good to Israel,*

*To those who are pure in heart!*

*<sup>2</sup>But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling,*

*My steps had almost slipped.*

*<sup>3</sup>For I was envious of the arrogant*

*As I saw the prosperity of the wicked.*

- Third question: Will this evil just continue on unchecked?
  - The Chaldeans are taking advantage of the situations and robbing God of the credit for their success.
  - Is God going to \_\_\_\_\_ their wickedness and allow them to go on and keep conquering the rest of the world?

### What Do We Do with This Text?

1. Don't be afraid to ask God \_\_\_\_\_ questions.
  - a. There's always an \_\_\_\_\_ to them (though we don't always get the answer we hope for).
  - b. It's always something that leads us to learn more about God and \_\_\_\_\_ our faith.
  - c. **Dealing with tough situations that make us ask tough questions is how our faith grows.**

**Blanks:** unanswered, complaining, justice, punish, judgment, outside, self-reliance, character, promises, transcends, ignore, hard, answer, enlarges