

HABAKKUK SERIES #2:
From Bad to Worse
Habakkuk 1:5-11
Grace Community Church
Kingston, Tennessee
Sunday, September 1, 2019

1. INTRODUCTION:

a. **JOKE:** A man went to his doctor

2. TEXT: Habakkuk 1:1-4, (1) The burden which the prophet Habakkuk saw. (2) O LORD, how long shall I cry, And You will not hear? Even cry out to You, "Violence!" And You will not save. (3) Why do You show me iniquity, And cause me to see trouble? For plundering and violence are before me; There is strife, and contention arises. (4) Therefore the law is powerless, And justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; Therefore perverse judgment proceeds.

3. INTRODUCTION:

- a. Habakkuk was given a divine revelation that very dark days were ahead for his nation. Yet the prophet displayed a firm reliance upon God despite what lay ahead.
- b. The book of Habakkuk is a dialogue between Jehovah God and Habakkuk.
- c. Habakkuk is trying to reconcile his belief in a good and righteous God with the situations around him, which seemed to contradict what he believed.
- d. Habakkuk prophesied *before* Israel went into its 70-year captivity in Babylon. God tells Habakkuk in this book is that the Babylonian invasion is imminent.
- e. The book of Habakkuk mirrors the present conditions of America.

4. CHAPTER ONE: HABAKKUK'S BURDEN

- a. In chapter 1, Habakkuk was troubled with the moral decadence of his nation and perplexed at what was transpiring in Judah and why God did not intervene.
- b. Hab. 1:2, "O LORD, how long shall I cry, And You will not hear? [I] Even cry out to You, "Violence!" And You will not save."
- c. Hab. 1:2-4: Habakkuk lists the evils he sees in his land
 - i. V. 2, VIOLENCE
 - ii. V. 3, INIQUITY

iii. V. 3, PLUNDERING AND VIOLENCE

iv. V. 3, STRIFE, AND CONTENTION

v. V. 4, LAWLESSNESS

- d. When Habakkuk laid out his complaint against God and inquired of Him why He allowed things to continue as they were, the prophet got an answer he had not anticipated; things were going FROM BAD TO WORSE.
- e. Hab. 1:5-11, *God response to Habakkuk for His intervention*, (5) "Look among the nations and watch—Be utterly astounded! For I will work a work in your days Which you would not believe, though it were told you. (6) For indeed I am raising up the Chaldeans, A bitter and hasty nation Which marches through the breadth of the earth [invading and conquering nations], To possess dwelling places that are not theirs. (7) They are terrible and dreadful; Their judgment and their dignity proceed from themselves. (8) Their horses also are swifter than leopards, And more fierce than evening wolves. Their chargers charge ahead; Their cavalry comes from afar; They fly as the eagle that hastens to eat. (9) "They all come for violence; Their faces are set like the east wind. They gather captives like sand. (10) They scoff at kings, And princes are scorned by them. They deride every stronghold, For they heap up earthen mounds and seize it. (11) Then his mind changes, and he transgresses; He commits offense, Ascribing this power to his god."
- f. In Habakkuk's day, Babylon was a predatory nation.
- g. Hab. 1:5:
- i. God wanted Habakkuk to contemplate what Babylon had done to all the nations around Judah and to understand that that same thing would soon happen to Habakkuk's homeland.
 - ii. **ASTOUNDED** means, to "be stunned, amazed, dumbfounded"¹
 - iii. "For I will work a work in your days Which you would not believe, though it were told you."
 - iv. God is telling Habakkuk:
 1. "In your wildest imaginations, you could never imagine the:
 - a. Horrible
 - b. Horrendous things that are about to happen to Judah
 - v. Chaldea was a district in Southern Babylonia. Chaldea is sometimes used for Babylon.

¹ *Strong's Concordance*, "astounded."

- vi. **The Babylonians were soon to invade and destroy Judah, but they were allowed by God to do so.**
- vii. **At this time in the book of Habakkuk, the Babylonians were allies of Judah.**

h. Hab 1:6:

- i. **“For indeed I am raising up the Chaldeans ...”**

1. NOTE: God said that it was He Who was raising up the Chaldeans. Humanly speaking, one would think that God’s people and nation would be protected from evil in this world.

2. Psm. 76:10, “Surely the wrath of man shall praise You; With the remainder of wrath You shall gird Yourself.”

- ii. **“A bitter and hasty nation ...”**
- iii. **“... march ... through the breadth of the earth”**
- iv. **“ ... possess dwelling places [that were] not theirs.”**

i. Hab 1:7:

- i. **The Chaldeans, “... are terrible and dreadful ...”**
- ii. **“Their judgment and their dignity proceed from themselves.”**

j. Hab 1:8:

- i. **“Their horses also are swifter than leopards”**
- ii. **“[their horses are] more fierce than evening wolves.”**
- iii. **“Their cavalry comes from afar ...”**
- iv. **“They fly as the eagle [that] hastens to eat.”**

k. Hab 1:9:

- i. **“They all come for violence ...”**
- ii. **“Their faces are set [like] the east wind.”**
- iii. **“They gather captives like sand.”**

l. Hab 1:10:

- i. **“They scoff at kings ...”**
- ii. **“And princes are scorned by them.”**
- iii. **“They deride every stronghold ...”**
- iv. **“For they heap up earthen [mounds] and seize it.”**

m. Hab 1:11:

- i. **“Then [his] mind changes ...” (i.e., the General of the Chaldean army)**
- ii. **“ ... and he transgresses ...”**
- iii. **“He commits offense, [Ascribing] this power to his god.”**

n. Judah’s troubles came upon it because it was guilty of turning its back upon God. So God turned His back upon Judah.

o. Habakkuk prayed for revival, but revival was not coming.

5. America is today exactly where Judah was in Habakkuk’s day

- a. **The storm clouds of God’s judgment are gathering over our nation.**
- b. **Like Judah, our “invaders” may be a nation which is at this time an ally to us.**
- c. **The enemy God brings against America as judgment for her sins, may not be from without. There are forces at work in our nation today that can destroy our nation from within.**
- d. **Moral lapses in America:**
 - i. **Acceptance of homosexuality**
 - ii. **Commonplace abortions**
 - 1. **Lk. 17:1-2, (1) Then He said to the disciples, “It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come! (2) “It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.**

e. There are no end time prophecies in the Bible which refer to America. Why would that be?

- i. **There are end time prophecies in Scripture related to many present-day nations.**

ii. Possible explanations why the US is not mentioned in end time prophecies:

1. #1: *Since Bible writers lived in the Middle East, and wrote about the Middle East, their world was no larger than the Middle East, so they did not include the US in end time prophecies.*
2. #2: *By the time of the Battle of Armageddon, America is an insignificant power in the world and therefore no longer a player on the world stage.*
3. #3: *America is no longer in existence by the time of Armageddon.*

f. As we see the storm clouds of God's wrath and judgment gathering over America, what are we to do? Let Habakkuk be our example.

- i. In chapter 1, Habakkuk is perplexed at God's refusal to help Judah.
- ii. In chapter 2, God gives Habakkuk His plan for the ages.
- iii. In chapter 3, Habakkuk understood that righteousness and justice would one day reign supreme.
- iv. Because Habakkuk had faith in God, the prophet could live through troubling times because of Who God is.
- v. Habakkuk's statement of faith: Hab. 3:17-19, (17) Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls—(18) Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. (19) The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, And He will make me walk on my high hills.

6. SONG: "There's A Great Day Coming," words by Will L. Thompson

- a. There's a great day coming, a great day coming,
There's a great day coming by and by;
When the saints and the sinners shall be parted right and left,
Are you ready for that day to come?
- b. There's a bright day coming, a bright day coming,
There's a bright day coming by and by;
But its brightness shall only come to them that love the Lord,
Are you ready for that day to come?