

A DREADFUL JUDGEMENT

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Centra Baptist Church—March 6th, 2022

Habakkuk 1:1-11

ESV

[1] *The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw.*

[2] *O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not hear?*

Or cry to you “Violence!”

and you will not save?

[3] *Why do you make me see iniquity,
and why do you idly look at wrong?*

*Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.*

[4] *So the law is paralyzed,
and justice never goes forth.*

*For the wicked surround the righteous;
so justice goes forth perverted.*

[5] *“Look among the nations, and see;
wonder and be astounded.*

*For I am doing a work in your days
that you would not believe if told.*

[6] *For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans,
that bitter and hasty nation,
who march through the breadth of the earth,
to seize dwellings not their own.*

[7] *They are dreaded and fearsome;
their justice and dignity go forth from
themselves.*

[8] *Their horses are swifter than leopards,
more fierce than the evening wolves;
their horsemen press proudly on.*

*Their horsemen come from afar;
they fly like an eagle swift to devour.*

[9] *They all come for violence,
all their faces forward.*

They gather captives like sand.

[10] *At kings they scoff,
and at rulers they laugh.*

*They laugh at every fortress,
for they pile up earth and take it.*

[11] *Then they sweep by like the wind and go on,
guilty men, whose own might is their god!”*

INTRODUCTION

Guiding Thought: God always answers our prayers according to what we need, and not necessarily what we want.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

Habakkuk was a prophet, meaning he spoke the word of God to God’s people.

‘oracle’ = ‘burden’

Habakkuk’s prophecy is one of judgment and mercy

Habakkuk’s ministry took place between:

- Fall of the Northern Kingdom of Israel to the Assyrians in 722 BC
- Fall of the Southern Kingdom of Judah to the Babylonians in 586 BC

HABAKKUK’S PLEA FOR JUSTICE

Does the Lord care about our suffering? Yes, he does.

James 4:17—*So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.*

Psalm 62:8—*Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.*

Psalm 46:1—*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

GOD’S SURPRISING ANSWER

1 John 5:14—*And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.*

God answers prayers not according to what we would expect, but according to what he expects.

Who are the Chaldeans?

- 1) Unjust
- 2) Powerful
- 3) Violent
- 4) Defiant
- 5) Guilty

Acts 2:22–24—[22] *“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—[23] this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not*

Does it bother you when the guilty judges the innocent? That only happened once in history. When Christ willingly gave up his sinless life on behalf of the guilty.

1 Peter 3:18—*For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God...*