

SERMON 1 – WHEN WICKEDNESS PREVAILS AND JUSTICE FAILS

IN VERSES 1:1-11 WE ENCOUNTER 2 SECTIONS OF THE FIRST CYCLE OF DIALOG BETWEEN HABAKKUK AND GOD IN THE ORACLE THAT HABAKKUK SAW

The oracle Habakkuk saw(v.1)

A. THE TIME OF THE ORACLE

B. THE RECIPIENT OF THE ORACLE

C. THE IMPACT OF THE ORACLE

II. HABAKKUK CRIES OUT TO GOD WITH A SERIES OF QUESTIONS AND COMPLAINTS (V.2-4)

A. Habakkuk is Perplexed with his God

1. Habakkuk's First Question: Does God not hear? (v.2a)
2. Habakkuk's Second Question: Why will God not save? (v.2b)
3. Habakkuk's Third Question: Why does God tolerate wrongdoing? (v.3a)

B. Habakkuk is Frustrated with his Nation

1. Habakkuk's First Complaint:: He observes evil and destruction (v.3b)
2. Habakkuk's Second Complaint: He observes a failure of justice(v.4)

III. HABAKKUK IS LESS THAN COMFORTED BY THE REVELATION OF GOD'S PLAN (V.5-11)

A. The Prelude to the Revelation of God's Plan

1. Habakkuk should be prepared to be astonished (v.5a)
2. God's plan will unfold in a most remarkable and unbelievable way (v.5b)

B. The People Who will be used to Accomplish God's Plan

1. The land that is characterized by contention and strife will be defeated by a people who are bitter and hasty (v.6)
2. The land that perverts justice will be forced to contend with a people who devise their own dreadful standards of justice (v.7)
3. The land marked by violence will be punished by a fierce and violent nation (vs.8-9)
4. The once mighty nation who turned away from their God will be conquered by a nation whose own might is their God! (v.10-11)