

Habakkuk 1:1-11

GOD WAS PLEASED TO USE ADVERSITY

- I. God's apparent silence.
 - A. Habakkuk begins by complaining about what he thinks God is doing wrongly to Judah.
 - 1. Historical setting: Judah in very poor spiritual condition with sin and vice rampant with authorities being lawless (3,4).
 - 2. Habakkuk correctly confesses God's sovereign control over everything, but that includes the Babylonian invasion.
 - B. What made it worse was the fact that it seemed that God did not answer him: "not hear" not save" (2).
- II. God finally answers, but His answer creates more questions.
 - A. God caused the spiritual decline.
 - 1. He does so to teach His people the horribleness of their sin and sinfulness and the greater power of His grace.
 - 2. He does so to teach them to trust His wisdom and to teach patience/endurance to wait on Him to punish the evil Chaldeans.
 - 3. He does so to occasion greater sin by the Chaldeans, so their cup of iniquity would be filled.
 - B. Why does God give different and unusual and even perplexing answers to our prayers?
 - 1. We ask for spiritual growth (a desire He gives to us) and He sends us trials/temptations.
 - 2. Our perplexity about God's way is not a walk of faith but our being spiritually slack.
 - 3. Paul quotes verse 5 in Acts 13:41 as a warning to the church in Antioch of Pisidia lest they reject the message of Jesus.
- III. Let us learn to respond properly.
 - A. It is not true that sinners are getting away with their sin, nor are Judah's defeats only because the Chaldeans were better.
 - B. The "problems" we see God using are His means to achieve highest glory for Him.