Habakkuk: From Protest to Praise –
God, It Isn't Fair! Part I
Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

INTRODUCTION

Please take your Bibles and turn with me to the book of **Habakkuk 1:12-2:5**. *Live long enough and you'll discover that God's plan and yours often are not the same.*

The chapter opens with a Q&A between the prophet and God. The prophet presents a lament (**vv. 2-4**) and the Lord responds (**vv.5-11**) **He doesn't like the answer he received.** *First,* he thought God was ignoring Judah's sin. *Second,* he thought God would never use Babylon to judge Judah. Wrong both times. **What do you do when God doesn't live up to your expectations?** How do you respond when the Lord's answer isn't what you wanted? Habakkuk was troubled by something that troubles all of us. He couldn't reconcile his view of God with the injustice he saw all around him. And then when he does receive the answer, he can't believe it! In essence, God's message is that soon the internal corruption that **Habakkuk** dislikes will give way to a much worse external enemy.

Habakkuk wasn't questioning God's right to judge sin. He was questioning God's method. How could God use the Babylonians to judge the people of Judah, when the Babylonians were even more wicked than the people God was judging? Wouldn't it make more sense to judge the Babylonians? Isn't the remedy worse than the disease?!

Let's dig in…

I. Habakkuk's (second) _____ :

God, it isn't _____! How can You use the Babylonians to punish the people of Judah? (1:12-2:1)

When Habakkuk heard this, he objected strongly: *"God, how can you do this?"* You see…ultimately, the issue is not Judah and her sin or Babylon and its evil or **Habakkuk's** doubts. **The issue is God.** *We all end up there eventually.* All our questions lead back to God because He is the one with Whom we have to deal. All smaller issues lead us back to the one who sits on the throne of the universe.

There are three things that the prophet is absolutely convinced of in and of themselves, and yet he cannot see how all three could be true at the same time.

A. God is _____ over Israel and the nations (1:12)

Habakkuk firmly believed that God was sovereign over the nation of Israel. **But he also believed that God was sovereign over all the other nations as well**.

B. God is _____ and cannot tolerate wrong (1:13)

Verse 13 consists of two statements about God followed by two questions addressed to God.

C. Babylon is <u>wicked</u> and yet <u>prospers</u> (2:14-17)

What does **Habakkuk** do next? **Habakkuk looks for God's answer. (Habakkuk 2:1)**

This is something we all need to learn to do. When you have questions or doubts, bring them to God. Take your stand, station yourself for the long run, and wait upon the Lord. God will answer your questions in His time. Now God may not settle some of your questions until you reach heaven. And as you wait remember that God doesn't keep time the way we do. *"God never hurries. There are no deadlines against which he must work."* (**A. W. Tozer**)

For the moment we will leave **Habakkuk** right here. He's in his tower looking, watching, and waiting for the Lord to give him an answer.

CONCLUSION

What can we take with us this **morning?** What do you do when God makes no sense? Either ***you walk away from your faith or you remind yourself of who God is.*** Sometimes what we need is a good dose of theology to strengthen our faltering faith. When faced with the news that the hated Babylonians would soon invade Judah and nothing could stop them, **Habakkuk** goes back to what he knows to be true about God.

Consider it this **way:**

- **If you remove God's _____, you will forever question His _____.**

- **If you remove God's _____ _____, you will forever question His _____.**

- **If you remove God's _____, you will forever question His _____.**

- **If you remove God's _____, you will forever question His _____.**

- **If you remove God's _____, you'll forever question His _____.**

Life is filled with mysteries, but we can trust our holy and just God to act fairly and faithfully.