

Habakkuk 1.12 – 2.3: Know Him so that you can trust Him
Redemption Hill Church | Simon Murphy
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Habakkuk 1.12 – 2.4:

Habakkuk is in a dark day and cries out to God in the midst of his pain and fear. ***His pain tells him something is wrong with the world*** and cries out to God. ***His fear tells him what he is trusting and warns him of idolatry***. And then God comes and answers him in a way that is completely different to what he wants. He says that he hasn't forgotten about them, and that he will sort out the problem of wickedness. but sending in the Babylonians, who are even more wicked!

We must know Him, so we can trust Him. "Though we don't always understand, we should live by faith in Him". We are finite, His ways are above ours. **Is 55.8**

1.12: We see that Habakkuk and God have a dialogue. This shouldn't surprise us but is often not our common understanding and experience of what happens. **David (1 Sam 23)** had this, as did **Moses (Ex 3)** and **Job**. We should be speaking to the Lord and hearing His voice. The cross has reconciled us to God! We don't shrink back in fear, we press on in confidence to his Throne of Grace. **Jesus said that my sheep know my voice.**

Now Habakkuk get's to respond: **So what do we do with difficult circumstances?**

1. Humble ourselves

He starts off by trying to do this (we'll see in a moment) but can't keep it up! By verse 13 his heart just spills forth what is going on inside (Matt 12.33). Like the prodigal son.. starts saying that he is better and insults his father in the moment due to his self righteousness.

1.13: **Self righteousness destroys our relationships** with others because we see ourselves as being superior.

We compare ourselves to wicked people **so we feel better**. This is why gossip is rampant in a self righteous culture. We trust in our own goodness and so to look better we pull down others. It's an issue of righteousness.

We all cry out for justice against others but don't want it to be applied to us. God has two categories for people. Jesus and the rest of us. Jesus and Adam. We are all beggars showing other beggars where to find bread.

The remedy for pride is to compare ourselves to Jesus, and then once we have realized how far short we fall, we should run to him for mercy. When we see that He died in our place for our sins, it truly humbles us. We realize that when we were dead in our sins God came after us! And so we trust in Him alone, putting no confidence in ourselves, but solely in the power of Christ's death and resurrection.

2. Restate basic principles

We need to go back to the eternal truths of God's character and nature.

Habakkuk mentions 5 things:

"Everlasting" – a sense of the God of history and the future: God is the God who was and is and is to come. He will not abandon his people. This is not His final word on the matter. These things have happened before and will happen again. Church history is helpful!

"My God" – the individual care God shows us: God cares about us as individuals, not just nations. He knows the hairs on our head and the GDP of our country. He calls us as individuals by name. This is the God who goes after the one lost sheep. He cares about us!

"Holy" – the perfection of God: He is altogether pure and righteous. Nothing is unfair or unjust.

“Ordained” – the sovereignty of God: He is totally in charge, there is not another factor that has taken him by surprise. He is fully in charge.

“Rock” – the faithfulness of God: He is dependable, faithful, and doesn’t change. He is the rock we build our houses and lives upon.

3. Apply it to the problem

His conclusion then is the following:

“Everlasting” | This is not God’s last word on the matter. There will be an outcome.

“My God” | God is personal and will watch over me.

“Holy” | The result will be good and holy.

“Ordained” | God is in control and we should trust Him completely.

“Rock” | Then this must be for the good of His people.

And his conclusion then is that this is a judgment, a tool in His hand for their correction to bring them as a nation back to God.

God disciplines us even now. Will we allow ourselves to be trained by it? Heb 12
We often only see retrospectively the hand of God in it all (**Joseph and Jonah**)

4. If still in doubt, we commit it to God in faith.

When we don’t understand we can respond by withdrawing but we should draw near by faith. **Run towards, not away from.**

2.1: He’s going to wait to hear what the Lord has to say about this. We can be frank, honest, but humble. **We can question but not accuse.** Wait and detach yourself from it. Can’t be consumed. He is saying, ‘whatever you say, I’ll go with’.

2.2: We wait for His word. We make it clear. We trust in it. We make it known to others. We live by faith/ The Message says that we should write it in **big block letters**. How do we respond the Word of God? Heb 6.12 and Hebrews 11.

What promises has God given us regarding the world, and regarding our personal lives? We should hold on to them and trust them. Though they linger lets not grow impatient and doubt, let us believe!

God is good, He is personal, Sovereign, Holy, faithful and everlasting and we should trust Him completely and throw our lives at His feet. Let us know Him that we might love Him.