

# HABAKKUK'S PLEA

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. Some 2600 years ago, Habakkuk asked God questions we sometimes ask: "How can God allow wickedness, at expense of the righteous?"
  - 1. "Why do bad things happen to good people?"
  - 2. "Why does false religion prosper and truth seems to suffer?"
- B. While God does not answer the questions as we might expect, He does give Habakkuk some reassurance concerning his doubts
  - 1. 1st question: Why so much evil among the people of God? 1:2-4
  - 2. God's answer: Judah will be punished by Babylonians 1:5-11
  - 3. 2nd question: Why must they be punished by a people even more wicked than they? 1:12-2:1 (vs 12,13)
  - 4. God's answer: 2:2-20 (vs 2,3,20) Babylonians will be punished, Just remain faithful and wait. The Lord is in His temple, be silent 2:20
- C. Habakkuk acknowledges God's power & resolves to wait & trust in Him 3:1-19 (vs 2,18,19)
- D. Though the Babylonians were more sinful than Israel, still the issue of Israel's sin remained.
  - 1. Babylonians condemned for same things Judah was guilty of
  - 2. There are parallels we can make between Israel's indictment of sin and things we can see in the church.

## DISCUSSION:

- I. **"STRIFE EXISTS AND CONTENTIONS ARISE" 1:3**
  - A. God condemned the Chaldeans for their aloofness, pride & exploitation 2:4-5,10 yet Israel was guilty of the same thing!
    - 1. Not only were the people at odds with one another, but the priests & prophets had almost become a class unto themselves Ezek 22:23-29
    - 2. By Jesus' time, different sects of Jews had arisen, each trying to show more piousness than other - hypocrites Matt 6:1-5, 23:13
  - B. Strife & contentions abound in the church today
    - 1. Some condemn anyone who disagrees with them - this began almost immediately 1Cor 3:3, 3Jhn :9-10
    - 2. Continues today until the church is so splintered, hard to tell who to worship with.
  - C. A part of our work is to build unity, but unity must be based on a foundation 1Cor 1:10, Eph 4:1-6
  - D. With right attitude, we can increase harmony in local church
- II. **"THE LAW IS IGNORED AND JUSTICE IS NEVER UPHELD." 1:4a**
  - A. True for Babylonians who did whatever they wanted, but just as true for Israel concerning God's Law Jer 5:31, 8:8
  - B. Was a BIG problem in Jesus' time Mk 7:6-9
  - C. God's law is ignored today & justice (what's right) isn't sustained.
    - 1. Perversion in work, worship, organization of church

- 2. Why? A Lack of love & respect for God's word
- 3. Like Habakkuk, we look on in amazement as disobedience in the pretense of religion grows more & more successful
- D. Justice, like unity, is based on law.
  - 1. Without standard, there is chaos.
  - 2. Where there is chaos, anarchy will rule, and NO justice will ever be dispensed Psa 11:1-7

## III. "THE WICKED SURROUND RIGHTEOUS, JUSTICE COMES OUT PERVERTED." (wrong judgment proceedeth - KJV) 1:4b

- A. Judah, surrounded by ungodly pagans, conformed to their philosophies Jer 5:1,7,19
- B. No surprise same flourishes among Christians today
  - 1. Influenced by worldly desires and enticements of a godless society Lk 8:14
  - 2. World sees a caricature of what a true Christian should be and some, having no better example, emulate the parody.
- C. Judah's problem was that she wanted to be like nations around her 1Sam 8:5, 19-20
  - 1. True of church. Wanting to be like denominations local churches traded truth for popularity & acceptance Jer 7:23-24
  - 2. The more that local churches mirror the world around them, the more that false religion is perpetuated.
  - 3. Ones in digressive churches don't know better & on it goes
  - 4. Wrong on MDR, entertainment, materialism, worldliness - so almost no difference between church & denomination

## IV. WHAT CAN WE DO? WE CAN LEARN LESSONS HABAKKUK DID AND OUR RESPONSE IN FACE OF ADVERSITY WILL ECHO HIS

- A. Be faithful 2:4 Faithfulness, in spite of trials, will cause our dependence and reliance on God to grow while at the same time bolstering our determination to endure.
- B. Submit to God 2:20
  - 1. Sometimes we don't have all the answers & sometimes God doesn't offer them in the way we would like.
  - 2. Still, we can know that we can depend on Him to have all things work for good to those who love Him. Rom 8:28
- C. Trust and wait 3:16-19 - No matter what happens around us or what misfortune befalls us or what indignity we might suffer; there is strength and salvation only in God.

## CONCLUSION:

- A. Oh, for faith like Habakkuk's!
- B. We need to read and re-read Heb 11 and then the accounts of the lives of these heroes of faith from the Old Testament
- C. Faith like they had is available, but it is up to us to make it work Heb 10:35-39