



FAITH TRIAL

LIFE LESSONS FROM HABAKKUK

PROBLEMS OF A PUZZLED PROPHET
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Problems of a Puzzled Prophet

Why doesn't God seem to
answer my prayers?

HAB 1:2 How long, O LORD, must I call for help,
but you do not listen? Or cry out to you,
"Violence!" but you do not save?

Problems of a Puzzled Prophet

Why do bad things happen?

HAB 1:3 Why do you make me look at injustice?
Why do you tolerate wrong? Destruction and
violence are before me; there is strife, and
conflict abounds.

Problems of a Puzzled Prophet

Why does wickedness go
unpunished?

HAB 1:4 Therefore the law is paralyzed, and
justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the
righteous, so that justice is perverted.

God's Response

"I am about to step in."

HAB 1:5 Look at the nations and watch-- and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told. ⁶ I am raising up the Babylonians, that ruthless and impetuous people, who sweep across the whole earth to seize dwelling places not their own.

Habakkuk's comeback

"But you can't do it that way!"

HAB 1:12 O LORD, are you not from everlasting? My God, my Holy One, we will not die. O LORD, you have appointed them to execute judgment; O Rock, you have ordained them to punish. ¹³ Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?

Where do we go with our questions?

Waiting on God ...

HAB 2:1 I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint.

How to we begin to form some answers?

Understanding who God is

ROM 9:22 What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath--prepared for destruction? ²³ What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory-- ²⁴ even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?

How to we begin to form some answers?

Understanding God's purposes

ROM 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.