

Habakkuk

“1 The burden which Habakkuk the prophet did see. 2 O LORD, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! even cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save! 3 Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance? for spoiling and violence are before me: and there are that raise up strife and contention. 4 Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.”
(Habakkuk 1:1-4 KJV)

Habakkuk forwarded his complaint to God and he was questioning God why He was not doing anything in regard to wrong doing, violence, strife, conflict, injustice, idol worship, immoralities, drunkenness, corruption, the wicked prevail over the righteous, justice perverted, etc. With all of that God was silent. His people were doing those sins but He was not doing something to restrain them. Habakkuk was surprised why God was calm and silent. He was not able to see beyond that. * Many times things may go this way and you question and ask why all these wickedness, immoralities, injustice, corruption, violence, and wars are taking place but God is silent and it seems He is not doing anything. * This is because you are not seeing clearly what will happen, what will take place and what God shall do in the future. * Never think that God will remain silent but time will come and He will deal with the wickedness of men. * We should continue to fear God and do what is right, because even God may look silent while wickedness is spreading, but time will come that God shall judge the wicked and reward us for our obedience to Him.

Habakkuk was a watchman but he was not able to see clearly, therefore the Lord intervened and answered him to clear up his doubts. In *Habakkuk 1:2 KJV*, the prophet cries out: ***“2 O LORD, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! even cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save!”*** God responded to him in *Habakkuk 1:5 KJV* by saying, ***“5 Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvelously: for I will work a work in your days which ye will not believe, though it be told you.”*** God told Habakkuk that He was raising a nation, which was Babylon, to come against the land where Habakkuk was seeing all the intolerable wickedness going on. The following are the details of the LORD’s Answer:

“5 Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvelously: for I will work a work in your days which ye will not believe, though it be told you. 6 For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwellingplaces that are not their's. 7 They are terrible and dreadful: their judgment and their dignity shall proceed of themselves. 8 Their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves: and their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from far; they shall fly as the eagle that hasteth to eat. 9 They shall come all for violence: their faces shall sup up as the east wind, and they shall gather the captivity as the sand. 10 And they shall scoff at the kings, and the princes shall be a scorn unto them: they shall deride every strong hold; for they shall heap dust, and take it. 11 Then shall his mind change, and he shall pass over, and offend, imputing this his power unto his god.” (Habakkuk 1:5-11 KJV) The action of God to punish the

wickedness of His people in Jerusalem and Judea was to send to them the powerful and the dreadful Babylonians to destroy them with all the details that we read in the scripture. Once this was revealed to the prophet, Habakkuk changed his tone because he was overwhelmed of what is about and is going to happen.

At this point came Habakkuk's second complaint of how God is about to destroy His own people with a wicked nation: ***“12 Art thou not from everlasting, O LORD my God, mine Holy One? we shall not die. O LORD, thou hast ordained them for judgment; and, O mighty God, thou hast established them for correction. 13 Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he? 14 And makest men as the fishes of the sea, as the creeping things, that have no ruler over them? 15 They take up all of them with the angle, they catch them in their net, and gather them in their drag; therefore they rejoice and are glad. 16 Therefore they sacrifice unto their net, and burn incense unto their drag; because by them their portion is fat, and their meat plenteous. 17 Shall they therefore empty their net, and not spare continually to slay the nations?”*** (Habakkuk 1:12-17) Habakkuk was telling to God ***“wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?”*** (Habakkuk 1:13 KJV) Here Habakkuk was asking God how He will be keeping silent in allowing a wicked nation like the Babylonians to devour men, His people who were more righteous than they. This is one of the perplexed things that we can see and witness even now when God use wicked people to harm His people who are doing evil and sin against God. But we should not be astonished because that is the way of God to deal with His people when they will go out of the way.

Habakkuk as a watchman was perplexed about what God was about to do but he resolved to wait and watch for God’s answer when he said, ***“1 I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved.”*** (Habakkuk 2:1 KJV) We need to do the same when we are baffled with some situations that we cannot analyze, accept or realize; we need to wait and watch for God’s answer, action and explanation.

In *Habakkuk 2:2-3* God gives an answer: ***“2 And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. 3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.”*** God told him to write the vision, and make it plain upon tablets for the people to read it. He told him to wait for it; because it will surely come and it will not delay.

In *Habakkuk 2:4*, ***“but the just shall live by his faith.”*** God was telling to Habakkuk, if you have faith, you will wait for the fulfillment of the vision that He shown him and given to him. The watchman needs to have faith so he can wait to see the fulfillment of the vision that God gives. Faith especially is needed when wickedness and evil is so rampant.

The Lord further declares His judgment on the wicked and on the nation that will invade Jerusalem:

“4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith. 5 Yea also, because he transgresseth by wine, he is a proud man, neither keepeth at

home, who enlargeth his desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people: 6 Shall not all these take up a parable against him, and a taunting proverb against him, and say, Woe to him that increaseth that which is not his! how long? and to him that ladeth himself with thick clay! 7 Shall they not rise up suddenly that shall bite thee, and awake that shall vex thee, and thou shalt be for booties unto them? 8 Because thou hast spoiled many nations, all the remnant of the people shall spoil thee; because of men's blood, and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein. 9 Woe to him that coveteth an evil covetousness to his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of evil! 10 Thou hast consulted shame to thy house by cutting off many people, and hast sinned against thy soul. 11 For the stone shall cry out of the wall, and the beam out of the timber shall answer it. 12 Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, and stablisheth a city by iniquity! 13 Behold, is it not of the LORD of hosts that the people shall labour in the very fire, and the people shall weary themselves for very vanity? 14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. 15 Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness! 16 Thou art filled with shame for glory: drink thou also, and let thy foreskin be uncovered: the cup of the LORD's right hand shall be turned unto thee, and shameful spewing shall be on thy glory. 17 For the violence of Lebanon shall cover thee, and the spoil of beasts, which made them afraid, because of men's blood, and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein. 18 What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols? 19 Woe unto him that saith to the wood, Awake; to the dumb stone, Arise, it shall teach! Behold, it is laid over with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in the midst of it. 20 But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.” (Habakkuk 2:4-20 KJV) God here clearly declared the wickedness of the Babylonians and His judgment and punishment on them because of their evil doings. **So here clear to us that when God shall use wicked people or nation to punish and to deal with His people, He will not allow such people and such nation to go unpunished for the wickedness that they did. But He will be sure to let them receive what they deserve of their wickedness.**

With what God spoke to Habakkuk in chapter 2 things made clear to him and saw the vision clearly, and once Habakkuk saw the vision, he became silent. After that period of silence Habakkuk went into a prayer. This was a prayer song. His faith increased after he understood what was taking place. **After one gets a vision of the Lord and starts to understand, it increases his faith and changes the way he prays.** For example, in the beginning, Habakkuk was praying **“O LORD, how long”** (Habakkuk 1:2) He was impatient to see justice prevailed. Then when he actually realized what God’s justice really entailed and how He will bring His judgment as we described, he was ready to pray, **“in wrath remember mercy.”** (Habakkuk 3:2 KJV) Let us read the whole chapter:

“1 A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet upon Shigionoth. 2 O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy. 3 God came from Teman,

and the Holy One from mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise. 4 And his brightness was as the light; he had horns coming out of his hand: and there was the hiding of his power. 5 Before him went the pestilence, and burning coals went forth at his feet. 6 He stood, and measured the earth: he beheld, and drove asunder the nations; and the everlasting mountains were scattered, the perpetual hills did bow: his ways are everlasting. 7 I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction: and the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble. 8 Was the LORD displeased against the rivers? was thine anger against the rivers? was thy wrath against the sea, that thou didst ride upon thine horses and thy chariots of salvation? 9 Thy bow was made quite naked, according to the oaths of the tribes, even thy word. Selah. Thou didst cleave the earth with rivers. 10 The mountains saw thee, and they trembled: the overflowing of the water passed by: the deep uttered his voice, and lifted up his hands on high. 11 The sun and moon stood still in their habitation: at the light of thine arrows they went, and at the shining of thy glittering spear. 12 Thou didst march through the land in indignation, thou didst thresh the heathen in anger. 13 Thou wentest forth for the salvation of thy people, even for salvation with thine anointed; thou woundedst the head out of the house of the wicked, by discovering the foundation unto the neck. Selah. 14 Thou didst strike through with his staves the head of his villages: they came out as a whirlwind to scatter me: their rejoicing was as to devour the poor secretly. 15 Thou didst walk through the sea with thine horses, through the heap of great waters. 16 When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble: when he cometh up unto the people, he will invade them with his troops. 17 Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: 18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. 19 The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.” (Habakkuk 3:1-19 KJV)

The vision which Habakkuk saw in chapter 3 was a vision of God Himself. When the prophet saw God, he was seeing a preview of the ultimate coming of the Lord judgment. He said, **“When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself,”** (Habakkuk 3:16 KJV) Habakkuk realized that God’s people are going to be judged, and he will be among them. Therefore he prayed and wished that he will be spared when God shall bring His judgment as he said, **“that I might rest in the day of trouble: when he cometh up unto the people, he will invade them with his troops.”** (Habakkuk 3:16 KJV) **In the same way, behave, pray and ask God to spare you when He will send His judgment.** Habakkuk as a watchman when saw the vision of God clearly all his questions and doubts were answered and he surrendered his will to God and ended his prayer and song in this way, **“16 When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble: when he cometh up unto the people, he will invade them with his troops. 17 Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: 18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. 19 The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed**

instruments.” (Habakkuk 3:16-19 KJV) Habakkuk as he trusted in God rejoiced and was glad with whatever outcome that God shall bring.

My Dear and Beloved: * If you are passing hard time seeing the wickedness that the people are doing especially the people of God, then pray and cry out to God and He will let you see a vision that speaks clearly about the judgment of God and how He is going to deal with such things justly. * God shall deal with His people, His ministers and workers who their ways of life and their teaching promotes sin and wickedness, especially those who promote and condone immoralities in the form of boyfriend, girlfriend, dating, courting, divorce and remarriage, single mother or single father allowed to marry not the father nor the mother of her or his child or children, and those who promote feasts offered to idols like celebrating birthdays, Christmas, New Year, Valentine, Father Day, Mother Day, Halloween, and the rest of the days according to the culture of the people, and those who accept and condone homosexual and transgender attitudes and marriages. Be sure that God one day will deal with His people in His own way and method. * Therefore rejoice in the Lord and surrender your will to God and sing and pray to Him that you will be spared troubles when He will judge the wicked and when He will judge His people for their sins, their idol worship, their feasts offered to their idols, their immoralities and their homosexual and their transgender sins. Let us pray

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that helps me to see your presence, and you are in full control over all the quos, the wickedness and the sins that are so widespread. Lord thank you for all the rebukes, the corrections and the admonishments that we received from you.*

Confess and renounce your sins. Confess your doubts, worries and lack of faith. Confess your worldliness and your love for material things. Confess and renounce your lust and immoralities. Confess your idol worship and your involvement in feasts offered to idols. Confess and renounce your greed, covetousness, and the love of money. Confess your lack of reading your Bible and your lack of prayers. Confess and renounce your bondage with the Media and friends. Confess doing your own will and plans and not God's will and plan. Lord forgive me, I confess and renounce the following sins _____.

Dear Lord I am really struggling with the wickedness I am seeing around me and is so rampant. Lord I am burdened with the various sins that your people are doing in worshiping idols of this world and their feasts for these idols, their sexual immoralities and their acceptance to the homosexual and the transgender attitude and marriages. Lord I surrender my life and my will to you. Lord help me to grasp and understand and see a vision from you and belief of how you are going to judge all this evil doings. Lord increase my faith that I will continue to live my life for you. Lord I commit myself to go and serve you and proclaim your Word. Lord protect me and spare me troubles when you will judge all those sins. Lord give me good health, strength and provide for me to continue to serve you, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

Lord thank you for my brethren and sisters who surrendered their lives and their will to you and committed themselves to go on in this life trusting fully on you and the good plans that you have for them and for your people. Lord spare them troubles, and continue to protect them and provide their needs so they will continue to serve you.

Lord bless us as a church and help us to continue to go through the narrow gate and the narrow way that you provided for us to go through. Lord as we surrender our lives and will to you Lord spare us troubles when you will judge your people and the wicked. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit, increase our faith and trust in you, and help us to evangelize and make new disciples and train new workers. Lord enable us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to be water baptized and more people to receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord prepare us for your coming that when you come we are ready to go with you. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all in Jesus' name, Amen.

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