

The Lord Cares **Lesson 2- Habakkuk**

(Chanty-Pages 11-22)

We discovered that in chapter 1, the Prophet Habakkuk was wondering and worrying. He was wondering and worrying because as he looked out on his nation, he saw wickedness and sin. The nation of Judah was in decline—politically, economically, morally and spiritually. They had _____ the Word of the Lord, and sin was rampant in the nation of Judah.

God was showing Habakkuk that _____ was going to come and conquer Judah. The people of Judah would go into captivity. His nation was going to suffer greatly.

The Prophet Habakkuk was a man who was perplexed. He didn't quite understand what God was doing. He did what all of us must do when we are perplexed, he _____.

In fact, as Habakkuk wrestled with his problems, he made three accusations against God.

I. First Accusation: _____.

"O Lord, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! Even cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save!" (Hab. 1:2). Throughout the ages, the saints of God have looked at the world with all of its wickedness and said, "O Lord Jesus, _____?"

You will notice that Habakkuk was praying very fervently. "How long shall I cry?" That first word "cry" means "to cry for help." He was crying out for the help of God. "O God, help me and help my nation." "How long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear!" (v. 2). Compare Mark 4:38.

The second time Habakkuk used the word "cry", it means "_____."

"Even cry [scream] out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save!"

_____ times in his little book Habakkuk used the word "**violence**." They were watching the internal decay of their nation.

What was the prophet praying about? He was praying about the _____ of his people. He realized that the nation was falling apart. He was praying for revival. He was praying that God's people would get: stirred up, that they would _____ and _____ and _____ against that which was wrong. But God did not answer.

II. Second Accusation: _____

And then in Habakkuk 1:3,4 he had a second accusation against God. Not only was God indifferent, but God was inactive. Here the question was not "How long?" but "Why?"

Josiah had been the king until 608 B.C., and he had issued orders for reformation. They had found the Law in the temple, and having read the Law, they realized how wicked they were, "*for by the law is the _____ of sin*" (Rom. 3:20). Reformation is good, but without repentance and regeneration never lasts or endures.

The Law can reveal sin, and the Law can rebuke sin, but the Law cannot change the _____. Josiah had led a marvelous reform, but it was superficial. It was not lasting; it was shallow. The men and women of Judah had gone back to their sins again.

Habakkuk named these sins.

1- One was _____ —

We've seen that in Habakkuk 1:2, and it's again repeated in verse 3.

2- Iniquity

Another sin Habakkuk mentioned was iniquity. The word "iniquity" means _____. Those who try to do the will of God are suffering while they that are ungodly seem to be _____.

3- Grievance

The prophet also mentioned grievance—it means _____. The people were being exploited.

4- Spoiling

The people were experiencing spoiling—that means _____.

5- Strife

"Strife" refers to disputes and fightings. It goes along with _____.

6- Injustice

Habakkuk also listed the sin of injustice. The Law was slack. The Hebrew word means _____. The Law was paralyzed.

Habakkuk 1:4

"Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth."

Why doesn't God just send fire from heaven and burn up all the wicked people? Because it wouldn't _____.

The heart of every problem is the problem in the heart, and until the heart is changed by grace, society will not change at all.

Why doesn't God do something? Let me remind you—**sometimes God lets us get exactly what we** _____.

But you can't have honesty and _____ and all the things that make up a good society without hearts that are in submission to God.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Prov. 9:10).

God appeared to be inactive. God was permitting the people of Judah to reap exactly what they had _____. They had supported idolatrous worship, and they got the results of it.

III. Third Accusation: Inconsistency

The third accusation that Habakkuk made was that God is inconsistent (see Hab. 1:5-17). Look at God's response.

Habakkuk 1:5

"Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvellously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you."

What was the work God was going to do? The _____ were going to move down upon Judah. (See *Habakkuk 1:12-13*).

We need to remind people who entertain that thought that God doesn't care that the Word of God says, *"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you"* (I Pet. 5:7).

Remember, the key idea in Habakkuk is found in 2:4: *"The just shall live by his faith."* We should not attempt to live by sight. To walk by faith means to look at earth from _____ point of view. To walk by sight means to look at heaven from _____ point of view.

Habakkuk needed to claim Romans 8:____. Habakkuk didn't have the Book of Romans, but he did have the God of the Book of Romans. Before this little prophecy ended, Habakkuk was rejoicing in the Lord. He moved from wondering and worrying to worshipping and _____.

If we will just put our faith in the Lord, even when we don't understand what is going on, we can say the Lord is on the throne. He will do right.