

God Was and Is At Work Lecture 3

The Prophet Habakkuk asked God two important questions:

1- _____ 2- _____

God not only seemed indifferent to the Prophet Habakkuk, but God seemed to be inactive. He was not listening, and He was not working.

God answered these questions in Habakkuk _____. God gave Habakkuk, and us, two descriptions of the situation over which He had control.

I. God's Work

A. Described His Work

First of all, God described His work. What was God doing?

Habakkuk 1:5-6

1. Amazing and _____

God gave a revelation here of His work. He did not give an explanation of all that He was doing, but He gave a _____.

What He said here is simply this: "Habakkuk, I am doing something so amazing, so marvelous and so wonderful that if I did explain it to you, you wouldn't understand it. In fact, you're going to have a hard time _____ it."

God does not always explain things to us. God tells us as much as we can take and as much as we can understand. Jesus said to His disciples in John 16:12:

"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now."

Each of us is at a different _____ in our spiritual life. God knows where we are in life.

Why doesn't God give us detailed explanations of His work? Well, for two reasons.

a. The first reason is that **we could not** _____ **all of it to begin with.** God has to be above me and _____ me.

Life has to have its _____. Your life cannot be like some machine, every wheel and cog of which you can explain.

b. The second reason why God does not tell us everything about His work is simply this: **We wouldn't** _____ **anyway.** That's what He tells us.

Habakkuk 1:5

"I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you."

Our tendency, whenever God explains something to us, is to _____ with Him.
 What New Testament character did just this? _____
 Matthew 16:22-23.

The heart of the problem is this: If God did explain things to you, would it make you a _____ person?

God did not give Abraham long, detailed explanations, blueprints, guidebooks. He gave him promises.

In fact, Abraham began his life of faith holding on to that great promise that he would _____ and through him all the _____ would be blessed (of course that refers to Christ).

2. Deliberate and _____

God described His work as an amazing work and an unbelievable work and as a very deliberate work.

I notice that the Hebrew word translated "work" in Habakkuk 1:5 means _____ . It's the word used for a _____ who is carefully making a piece of furniture or a potter who is carefully molding a jar.

1- God is at work carefully. He's taking care of all the details. That's why we can quote Romans 8:28 with confidence: "*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*"

2- God is working constantly—all things are working together for good. God is working coherently, putting everything together to accomplish His purposes.

His work is described in Habakkuk 1:6. He was going to raise up _____ to punish the Jews. In the Old Testament, you'll find that God often used the _____ to punish the Jews.

Different nations came into the Holy Land and punished the Jewish people during the period of the Book of _____.

But now God was going to take them out of their land and take them to Babylon. That is why we call them _____.

"Which shall march through the breadth of the land" (v. 6). That word "march" means "_____." This was not going to be some little raid; this was going to be a complete invasion. The Babylonians would be victorious.

Daniel 17:4 describes Babylon as a lion with wings.

II. God's Workers

In Habakkuk 1:7-11 God described His workers. God uses all kinds of workers to accomplish His purposes. He can use saved people and _____ people. He can use individuals or nations.

The rise and fall of the nations are in His hands.

Acts 17:26

God _____ one nation while He allows another nation's downfall.

God gave two descriptions of the Babylonian nation. In Habakkuk 1:7,8 He compared them to _____. In verses 9 and 10 He compared them to a _____.

A. Like _____

Habakkuk 1:7-8

It's interesting to note that in the Bible men and women who do not live for God are often compared to _____.

See Psalm 32:9.

Proverbs 7:22,23 gives the description of a young man who's about to go off with a harlot, and it says that he's going like an _____ to the slaughter.

The Babylonians were fearful and dreadful.

Habakkuk 1:8 says: "...Their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from far; they shall fly as the eagle that hasteth to eat."

In these verses we find horses and leopards and wolves and eagles. They are bent on destruction.

"The faces shall sup up as the east wind" (v. 9). They just keep advancing, keep moving. "And they shall gather the captivity as the sand" (v. 9).

B. Like _____

In Habakkuk 1:9,10 God changed the picture from animals to that of the desert wind. Verse 9 says, "*They sup up like a desert wind.*"

Just as the wind blows on the desert, just as the wind keeps moving forward, shifting all that sand, so the armies of _____ were going to come, and nothing was going to _____ them. "*They shall scoff at the kings*" (v. 10).

The Babylonians laughed at every stronghold, "*for they shall heap dust, and take it*" (v. 10). They could build _____ to get into the city.

Verse 11 says the Babylonians honored their strength. Their god was _____. "*Then shall his mind change, and he shall pass over, and offend, _____ his power unto his god*" (v. 11). In other words, they said their _____ was their god.

It's interesting to note that Habakkuk 1:5 is quoted in Acts 13:38-41. Paul quoted this to the people in the synagogue.

LET'S COMPARE ACTS 13:40-41 WITH Hab.1:5.

He stated that God is doing a work, and we had better heed what God is doing.

In Habakkuk's day God used the Gentiles to punish the Jews, but now in this day—the day of the Gospel—God is using the Jews to _____ the Gentiles.

WHAT IS GOD DOING TODAY?

God is today saving Jews and Gentiles and forming one Body, the Church? Don't despise the work of God, because today is the day of salvation.

God knows what He is doing.

He is not indifferent.

He is not inactive. He knows what His work is.

He can use whatever instruments He wants to use.

God will achieve His purposes. Just remember, the just shall live by faith. Let's have the faith to believe God and no matter what happens, not to doubt His infinite love and goodness.