

THE LAMENT

Habakkuk knew God's judgment would be unpleasant and harsh, but he welcomed it because he knew it was the only way to get the people's attention. God always uses judgment for the purpose of restoring and reconciling His people unto Himself.

"1 The pronouncement that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

2 How long, Lord, must I call for help

and you do not listen

or cry out to you about violence

and you do not save?

3 Why do you force me to look at injustice?

Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?

Oppression and violence are right in front of me.

Strife is ongoing, and conflict escalates.

4 This is why the law is ineffective

and justice never emerges.

For the wicked restrict the righteous;

therefore, justice comes out perverted."

Habakkuk 1:1-4 CSB

Taking Problems to God (Habakkuk 1:1-4)

Christ-followers should refuse to be apathetic about what we see happening in the world around us.

It can often seem as if the enemy is winning, and evil is prospering. We can take our concerns and questions to the Lord, trusting that He alone will set things right and He is the final judge of the world.

"5 Look at the nations and observe —

be utterly astounded!

For I am doing something in your days

that you will not believe

when you hear about it.

6 Look! I am raising up the Chaldeans,

that bitter, impetuous nation

that marches across the earth's open spaces

to seize territories not its own."

Habakkuk 1:5-6 CSB

God Answers (Habakkuk 1:5-6)

God changed Habakkuk's focus from the issues weighing him down to the promise of what God would do.

God sees all things, and He has a plan in place that may very well astonish us when it unfolds.

"7 They are fierce and terrifying;

*their views of justice and sovereignty
stem from themselves.*

*8 Their horses are swifter than leopards
and more fierce than wolves of the night.*

*Their horsemen charge ahead;
their horsemen come from distant lands.
They fly like eagles, swooping to devour.*

*9 All of them come to do violence;
their faces are set in determination.*

They gather prisoners like sand.

*10 They mock kings,
and rulers are a joke to them.*

*They laugh at every fortress
and build siege ramps to capture it.*

*11 Then they sweep by like the wind
and pass through.*

They are guilty; their strength is their god."

Habakkuk 1:7-11

The absence of justice is a direct affront to God's character, who is described as just and righteous throughout Scripture. Once God decides to act, who can stand against Him?

ISAIAH 59:14

*Our courts oppose the righteous,
and justice is nowhere to be found.*

*Truth stumbles in the streets,
and honesty has been outlawed.*

15

*Yes, truth is gone,
and anyone who renounces evil is attacked.*

*The Lord looked and was displeased
to find there was no justice.*

16

*He was amazed to see that no one intervened
to help the oppressed.*

*So he himself stepped in to save them with his strong arm,
and his justice sustained him.*

17

*He put on righteousness as his body armor
and placed the helmet of salvation on his head.*

*He clothed himself with a robe of vengeance
and wrapped himself in a cloak of divine passion.*

18

He will repay his enemies for their evil deeds.

His fury will fall on his foes.

He will pay them back even to the ends of the earth.

19

In the west, people will respect the name of the Lord;

in the east, they will glorify him.

For he will come like a raging flood tide

driven by the breath of the Lord.[a]

Trusting God's Judgment Will Come (Habakkuk 1:7-11)

JAMES 1:20 FOR THE ANGER OF MAN DOES NOT PRODUCE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD.

They worship their military might and rely on their power rather than acknowledging the true God. This self-reliance and pride are condemned throughout the Bible, as seen in Proverbs 16:18, which warns that pride precedes destruction. The worship of strength and power is a form of idolatry, replacing God with human achievement. This is contrasted with the biblical call to trust in God alone, as seen in passages like Psalm 20:7, which emphasizes reliance on the Lord rather than on human power. This idolatry is a type of the ultimate rejection of God, which is fulfilled in the New Testament through the person of Jesus Christ, who embodies true strength through humility and obedience to God.

God can use anyone He chooses to carry out His plan—even those who have no idea they are instruments of the Lord.

God does and has always taken sin very seriously, and we can trust that He will deal with it in His timing.

ONLINE ETIQUETTE

Follow the golden rule: Treat others as you would want to be treated.

Don't post when angry or upset: Avoid responding to an aggravating email, message, or post when you're feeling frustrated or angry. Step away until you can respond calmly and level-headed.

Question your motives: Before posting, ask yourself: Is it true, kind, and necessary? Does this truly contribute to the conversation? What is my intent in sharing this?

Check facts before sharing: Verify information from multiple credible sources before you share it. A shocking claim may be designed to trigger an emotional response and bypass your critical thinking.