

Sunday, September 12, 2021



## ***Has God lost Control?***

Habakkuk 1

*God, you're from eternity, aren't you? Holy God, we aren't going to die, are we? God, you chose Babylonians for your judgment work? Rock-Solid God, you gave them the job of discipline? But you can't be serious! You can't condone evil! So why don't you do something about this? Why are you silent now? This outrage! Evil men swallow up the righteous and you stand around and watch! You're treating men and women as so many fish in the ocean, Swimming without direction, swimming but not getting anywhere. Then this evil Babylonian arrives and goes fishing. He pulls in a good catch. He catches his limit and fills his bucket—a good day of fishing! He's happy! He praises his rod and reel, piles his fishing gear on an altar and worships it! It's made his day, and he's going to eat well tonight! Are you going to let this go on and on? Will you let this Babylonian fisherman Fish like a weekend angler, killing people as if they're nothing but fish?*

*<sup>13</sup> You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, And hold Your tongue when the wicked devours a person more righteous than he?*

The world in which we live. The America we reside in. September 11, 2001- Twin Towers terrorism

Godless leaders and godless government; Corruption; Injustice  
Multiple genders; Abortion; Sexual freedom; LGBTQIA  
Religious persecution; Bias; Black Lives Matter  
The Woke- race, gender, sexual injustice; White privilege  
To mask or not to mask; To vaccinate or not to vaccinate  
Hopeless; War tragedies

**Has God lost Control?**

The short answer is no. Absolutely NO!

## **Psalms 115**

Isaiah 46:10- Declaring the end from the beginning,  
And from ancient times *things* that are not *yet* done,  
Saying, 'My counsel shall stand,  
And I will do all My pleasure,'

Daniel 4:35- All the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing;  
He does according to His will in the army of heaven  
And *among* the inhabitants of the earth.  
No one can restrain His hand  
Or say to Him, "What have You done?"

2 Chronicles 20:6- "O LORD God of our fathers, *are* You not God in heaven,  
and do You *not* rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand *is*  
*there not* power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?

Isaiah 43:13- Indeed before the day *was*, I *am* He;  
And *there is* no one who can deliver out of My hand;  
I work, and who will reverse it?"

1 Chronicles 16:31- Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
And let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns."

1 Timothy 1:17; 6:15- Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who  
alone is wise, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen." ... which He will  
manifest in His own time, *He who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of  
kings and Lord of lords,

Revelation 19:6- And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the  
sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia!  
For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!

1 Chronicles 29:11- Yours, O LORD, *is* the greatness,  
The power and the glory,  
The victory and the majesty;  
For all *that is* in heaven and in earth *is Yours*;  
Yours *is* the kingdom, O LORD,  
And You are exalted as head over all.

Nehemiah 9:6- You alone *are* the LORD;  
You have made heaven,  
The heaven of heavens, with all their host,  
The earth and everything on it,  
The seas and all that is in them,  
And You preserve them all.  
The host of heaven worships You.

Lamentations 5:19- You, O LORD, remain forever;  
Your throne from generation to generation.

Psalms 93:1- The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty;  
The LORD is clothed,  
He has girded Himself with strength.  
Surely the world is established, so that it cannot be moved.

Isaiah 40:22- *It is* He who sits above the circle of the earth,  
And its inhabitants *are* like grasshoppers,  
Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,  
And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.

Colossians 1:16- For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

Revelation 4:11- "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

## **Prayer**

### 3 Helpful 2 Word Reminders for the believer

#### DON'T FRET

#### Psalm 37

- A. to be hot, furious, burn, become angry, be kindled
- B. to heat oneself in vexation

**חָרָה** **chârâh**, khaw-raw';; to glow or grow warm; figuratively (usually) to blaze up, of anger, zeal, jealousy:—be angry, burn, be displeased. fret self, grieve, be (wax) hot, be incensed.

#### CHORUS

I believe, I believe, I believe  
So why should I worry or fret  
I believe, I believe, I believe  
So why should I worry or fret

#### VERSE 1

He told me He'd protect me and go with me each day  
And brother I've no reason to doubt  
He's been so near me every step of the way  
And He will surely lead His children on out

#### VERSE 2

I know He holds the future  
I know He holds my hand  
And I know just as surely as I'm singing this song  
I'm a part of His almighty plan

## CHORUS

I believe, I believe, I believe

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### ➤ **You are going to be tempted to fear**

Proverbs 24:19, 20- Somebody please...

Joshua 1: <sup>5</sup>No man shall *be able to* stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. <sup>6</sup>Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. <sup>7</sup>Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. <sup>8</sup>This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. <sup>9</sup>Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go."

### ➤ **We are living in a world of fear**

Keep the right perspective- know the Word of God!

Health, finances, sustenance, relationships, safety, death, etc.

There is no peace for the wicked! Isaiah 48:22

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

### ➤ **We must understand the consequences of fear—crippling**

Loss of sleep, loss of peace, loss of happiness, loss of health, loss of relationships.

Why does God allow us to see iniquity and trouble, in our self or in others?

Why God allows us to see iniquity in our self.

- To keep us humble
- To make us submissive in the hour of trouble
- To make us value salvation all the more

Why God allows us to see iniquity in others.

- To show us what we might have been ourselves
- To make us see the wickedness of sin, that we might pass by it and hate it, and not indulge in it ourselves
- To make us admire the grace of God when He saves sinners
- To set us more earnestly to work that God can use us to save others and extend God's kingdom

## DEEP FAITH

## Habakkuk 2:4

I will stand my watch And set myself on the rampart, And watch to see what He will say to me, And what I will answer when I am corrected. <sup>2</sup> Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision And make *it* plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it. <sup>3</sup> For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry. <sup>4</sup> "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith.

### ➤ We must believe

Habakkuk was first troubled that there was no judgment against Judah; God answered by telling him judgment was on the way. Now Habakkuk is troubled by the agent of judgment, the Babylonians - who were an even more wicked people than the people of Judah.

"Before those words broke upon my mind I hated God and was angry with him because, not content with frightening us sinners by the law and by the miseries of life, he still further increased our torture by the gospel. But when, by the Spirit of God, I understood those words - 'The just shall live by faith!' 'The just shall live by

faith!" - then I felt born again like a new man; I entered through the open doors into the very Paradise of God." (Luther, cited in Boice)

In Hebrew, the important part of the verse has only three words: "the justified man," "by his faith," and "will live." Every word in Habakkuk 2:4 is important, and the Lord quotes it three times in the New Testament just to bring out the fullness of the meaning

- Romans 1:17 is the commentary on the justified man - "The just shall live by faith"

- Hebrews 10:38 is the commentary on faith - "The just shall live by faith"

- Galatians 3:11 is the commentary on the Christian life - "The just shall live by faith"

### ➤ **We must be runners of faith**

Habakkuk first had to see the vision. You cannot make anyone else see what he does not see for himself.

Habakkuk then had to make it known. You must do what you can to make the word of God known, and make it known in as many ways as possible.

Habakkuk had to make it known as permanently as possible - he was told to write the vision. You must do what you can to make a permanent impact on your listeners.

Habakkuk had to make it plain. "I have sometimes thought that certain ministers fancied that it was their duty to make the message elaborate, to go to the very bottom of the subject, and stir up all the mud they could find there, till you could not possibly see them, nor could they see their own way at all ... They tell people all the difficulties they have discovered in the Bible, - which difficulties most of their hearers would never have heard of unless their ministers had told them." (Spurgeon)

Habakkuk had to make it practical- **that he may run who reads it**. It doesn't say, "that he who runs may read it," but "**that he may run who reads it**."

The running - the activity and progress - comes forth from God's word.

### ➤ **We must constantly remind others**

## DELIBERATE FRUITFULNESS

## Habakkuk 3

When I heard, my body trembled; My lips quivered at *the* voice;  
Rottenness entered my bones; And I trembled in myself, That I might rest in the  
day of trouble. When he comes up to the people, He will invade them with his  
troops. <sup>17</sup> Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines;  
Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the  
flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls—<sup>18</sup> Yet I  
will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. <sup>19</sup> The LORD God is  
my strength; He will make my feet like deer's *feet*, And He will make me walk on  
my high hills. To the Chief Musician. With my stringed instruments.

### ➤ We must stay fixated on the relationship

Joy and peace now!

### ➤ We must stay focused on the LORD

Pride can be especially dangerous among the people of God. Once a man came  
to John Bunyan after a sermon and told him what a fine sermon he preached.  
"You're too late," Bunyan answered. "The devil told me that before I stepped  
down from the pulpit."

We know the end of the book and we win!

I've been readin' in the Bible,  
'bout the ending of the age.  
And one thing that's for certain,  
it grows closer every day.  
But I am not concerned about,  
the way it's gonna end.  
'Cause I've read the back of the book and we win.

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I've read the back of the book and we win,  
no more livin' in darkness we'll be living at home again.  
You see there ain't no need to worry about it if you're born again.  
I've read the back of the book and we win.

We all wanna be winners,  
in the games of life that we play.  
And friends since I'm a sinner,



I've already lost the race.  
But Jesus blood can take all my sin,  
and throw it in the deep blue sea.  
He can put an end to my last place living,  
give me the victory.

Now I can sing.  
I've read the back of the book and we win,  
no more livin' in darkness we'll be living at home again.  
You see there's ain't no need to worry about it if you're born again.  
I've read the back of the book and we win.

➤ **We must live life in light of the future**

**Keeping focused on the eternal and not the temporal.**

2 Corinthians 4:13-18

What's your takeaway today?