



GOD'S PLAN & CHARACTER REVEALED *Habakkuk 1:5-2:1*

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Good morning church! In Habakkuk chapter 1, we see God's response to Habakkuk's concerns and frustrations with the people's lack of commitment and the Lord's inactivity to act in judgment toward such betrayal & sinful disobedience. Prophets were inspired preachers of the Old Testament giving divine messages to the people of God. They also shared the Lord's burden for His broken world and His deep concern for His wayward people. We truly see Habakkuk's heart, which is burning with passion for the honor of God. How does God receive honor?

- The act of OBEDIENCE by the PEOPLE of God
- The act of JUSTICE in the NAME of God

Habakkuk 1:5-2:1

*"Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told. 6 For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, who march through the breadth of the earth, to seize dwellings not their own. 7 They are dreaded and fearsome; their justice and dignity go forth from themselves. 8 Their horses are swifter than leopards, more fierce than the evening wolves; their horsemen press proudly on. Their horsemen come from afar; they fly like an eagle swift to devour. 9 They all come for violence, all their faces forward. They gather captives like sand. 10 At kings they scoff, and at rulers they laugh. They laugh at every fortress, for they pile up earth and take it. 11 Then they sweep by like the wind and go on, guilty men, whose own might is their god!" 12 Are you not from everlasting, O Lord my God, my Holy One? We shall not die. O Lord, you have ordained them as a judgment, and you, O Rock, have established them for reproof. 13 You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong, why do you idly look at traitors and remain silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he? 14 You make mankind like the fish of the sea, like crawling things that have no ruler. 15 He brings all of them up with a hook; he drags them out with his net; he gathers them in his dragnet; so he rejoices and is glad. 16 Therefore he sacrifices to his net and makes offerings to his dragnet; for by them he lives in luxury, and his food is rich. 17 Is he then to keep on emptying his net and mercilessly killing nations forever? **2** I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower, and look out to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint."*

Map of the Ancient Near East

*"You are my hammer and weapon of war: with you I break nations in pieces; with you I destroy kingdoms;" **Jeremiah 51:20***

1. God **JUDGES** His People Who Are **UNFAITHFUL**. (v 5-11)

- God CONTROLS every power in history
- God's METHOD was to use an enemy of Judah to be an INSTRUMENT of judgment.
- God desires HONOR and WORSHIP to His name.

2. God's **PLAN** and **CHARACTER** are Questioned by Habakkuk. (v12-17)

- A **PERSONAL** relationship with God turns our **CONFUSION** of present anguish into **CONVICTION** of complete trust in God.

God's unchanging character is...

- ETERNAL
- SOVEREIGN
- HOLY
- IMMOVABLE
- Unshakeable

*The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: **24** "Have you not observed that these people are saying, 'The Lord has rejected the two clans that he chose'? Thus they have despised my people so that they are no longer a nation in their sight. **25** Thus says the Lord: If I have not established my covenant with day and night and the fixed order of heaven and earth, **26** then I will reject the offspring of Jacob and David my servant and will not choose one of his offspring to rule over the offspring of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For I will restore their fortunes and will have mercy on them." **Jeremiah 33:23-26***

- Habakkuk realized God's FAITHFULNESS in using a godless people was to CORRECT, not to annihilate.

3. God **ACCOMPLISHES** His Will as We **WAIT** for an **ANSWER** (v 2:1)

- Waiting on the Lord brings WISDOM and STRENGTH.
- God is sovereign in what He SAYS and DOES.
- We must PREPARE ourselves and LOOK for a word from God.

How you will embrace God, His living Word, and His perfect Will for your life? Are you waiting upon the Lord and His answer? Prepare your heart, your mind, your life and embrace Him even if we do not understand or see what He is doing. Even when we are going through uncertain times, can we still have confident faith in Jesus Christ our LORD?