

Habakkuk 1:3-4 ³ ... **Destruction** and **violence** are before me; there is **strife**, and **conflict** abounds. ⁴ Therefore the **law is paralyzed** and **justice never prevails**. The wicked **hem in the righteous**, so that **justice is perverted**."

COMPLAINT #1 – Why are the wicked winning?

Habakkuk 1:2-3 ² How long, Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? ... ³ Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? ..." (NIV)

God's answer:

Habakkuk 1:5-7 ⁵ Look at the nations and watch—and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told. ⁶ I am raising up the Babylonians, that ruthless and impetuous people, who sweep across the whole earth to seize dwellings not their own. ⁷ They are a feared and dreaded people ..." (NIV)

Our Application:

1. God KNOWS.
2. God HAS A PLAN.

COMPLAINT #2 – How can you allow the wicked to exist?

Habakkuk 1:13 "Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?"

God's Answer:

Habakkuk 2:2-4 ² Then the Lord replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. ³ For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and not delay. ⁴ See, the

enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright—but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness..." (NIV)

Our Application:

3. God can use ANYTHING and ANYONE for His purpose.
4. Eventually people will GET WHAT THEY DESERVE.

Habakkuk 2:3 "For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and not delay."

5. The goal is to REMAIN FAITHFUL through it all.

Habakkuk 2:4b "... but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness"

Romans 1:17 "For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." (NIV)

Galatians 3:11 "Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because "the righteous will live by faith." (NIV)

Examples of Unfaithfulness (Habakkuk 2:6-19)

- a) Taking from others (2:6-8)
- b) Exploitation—using others for personal gain (2:9-11)
- c) Violence and Injustice (2:12-14)
- d) Debauchery—shame (2:15-17)
- e) Idolatry (2:18-19)

God's Last Statement:

Habakkuk 2:20 "The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth be silent before Him." (NIV)

Our application:

6. God is IN CONTROL.

THE COMPLAINER'S RESPONSE:

Habakkuk 3:2 “Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them know; in wrath remember mercy.”

Habakkuk 3:16-19 “¹⁶ I heard and my heart pounded, my lips quivered at the sound; decay crept into my bones, and my legs trembled. Yet **I will wait patiently** for the day of calamity to come on the nation invading us. ¹⁷ Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, ¹⁸ yet **I will rejoice** in the Lord, **I will be joyful** in God my Savior. ¹⁹ The Sovereign Lord is my strength; He makes my feet like the feet of a deer, He enables me to tread on the heights.” (NIV)

Our application:

7. REMEMBER what God has done.
8. Don't GIVE IN.
9. Don't GIVE UP.

BOTTOM LINE:

Hebrews 10:36-39 “³⁶ You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised. ³⁷ For, “In just a little while, He who is coming will come and will not delay.” ³⁸ And, “But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back.” ³⁹ But **we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.**” (NIV)