

Message Notes

"God raising up evil people to combat evil?"

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction – *Following God is always difficult, but NEVER boring!*

1. Habakkuk's First Complaint (Habakkuk 1:2-4)
 - a. How Long? (vr. 2)
 - b. Why? (vr 3a)
 - c. Facts (vr 3b)
 - d. Four "Therefores" (vr 4)
 - i. Law is paralyzed
 - ii. Justice never prevails
 - iii. Wicked hem in the righteous
 - iv. Justice is perverted
2. God's Surprising Response
 - a. The Sovereignty of God
 - b. The Goodness of God
 - c. The Justice and Purposes of God
 - d. How this plays out in Habakkuk 1:5-11
 - i. LOOK!! (1:5)
 - ii. I am raising up the Babylonians
 1. Character of these people (1:6-7b)
 2. The reaction to them (1:7a)
 3. Their military prowess (1:8-10)
 4. Their wickedness (1:11)
3. Implications
 - a. The Master Teacher God is...
 - b. Does God really use ALL circumstances for his purposes, even evil ones?
Romans 8:28
 - c. If God is for us (Israel), why?
Deuteronomy 28 / Job 38:1-6
 - d. The difference between
God's Wrath and Discipline
John 3:36 / Hebrews 12:1-11

Application – *Is this a God you want to follow?*

Habakkuk 1:5-11

⁹"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. ¹⁰I am raising up the Babylonians, that ruthless and impetuous people, who sweep across the whole earth to seize dwelling-places not their own. ¹¹They are a feared and dreaded people; they are a law to themselves and promote their own honor. ¹²Their horses are swifter than leopards, fiercer than wolves at dusk. Their cavalry gallops headlong; their horsemen come from afar. They fly like a vulture swooping to devour; ¹³they all come bent on violence. Their hordes advance like a desert wind and gather prisoners like sand. ¹⁴They deride kings and scoff at rulers. They laugh at all fortified cities; they build earthen ramps and capture them. ¹⁵Then they sweep past like the wind and go on—guilty men, whose own strength is their god."

Psalms 115:3

³"Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.

1 John 1:5

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

James 1:16, 17

¹⁶Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. ¹⁷Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Amos 3:5, 6

⁵Does a bird fall into a trap on the ground where no snare has been set? Does a trap spring up from the earth when there is nothing to catch? ⁶When a trumpet sounds in a city, do not the people tremble? When disaster comes to a city, has not the LORD caused it?

Romans 8:28

²⁸And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Deuteronomy 28 (selected verses)

Job 38:1-6

¹Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm. He said: ²"Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? ³Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. ⁴"Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. ⁵Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? ⁶"On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone.

John 3:36

³⁶Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

Hebrews 12:5-11

⁵And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, ⁶"because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son." ⁷Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? ⁸If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. ⁹Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! ¹⁰Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. ¹¹No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

MAJORING

on a minor

a five-week look into the Big Questions of

Habakkuk

Outline of the book of Habakkuk

Habakkuk's First Complaint - 1.1-4

God's First Answer - 1:5-11

Habakkuk's Second Complaint - 1:12-2:1

God's Second Answer - 2:2-20

**Habakkuk's Response to God's Answer (a hymn of praise)
Habakkuk 3:1-19**

Let's get into Habakkuk!

1. The Oracle of Habakkuk

Habakkuk 1:1

¹The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet received.

Let's get into Habakkuk!

2. *Habakkuk's B. Q.*

Habakkuk 1:2-4

²How long, O LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen?
Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save? ³Why do
you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrong?
Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and
conflict abounds. ⁴Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice
never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that
justice is perverted.

Applications

1. Complaining to God?

Applications

2. The silence is deafening...

God's Surprising Response to Habakkuk

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1. The Sovereignty of God

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³Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.

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2. The Goodness of God

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God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

God's Surprising Response to Habakkuk

3. The Justice and Purposes of God

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God's Surprising Response to Habakkuk

4. How this all plays out in Habakkuk 1:5-11

God's Surprising Response to Habakkuk

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a. Look!!

God's Surprising Response to Habakkuk

4. How this all plays out in Habakkuk 1:5-11

a. Look!!

Habakkuk 1:5

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.

God's Surprising Response to Habakkuk

4. *How this all plays out in Habakkuk 1:5-11*
 - b. I am raising up the Babylonians...

God's Surprising Response to Habakkuk

4. How this all plays out in Habakkuk 1:5-11

b. I am raising up the Babylonians...

Habakkuk 1:6a

⁶I am raising up the Babylonians, that ruthless and impetuous people, who sweep across the whole earth to seize dwelling-places not their own.

God's Surprising Response to Habakkuk

- 4. *How this all plays out in Habakkuk 1:5-11*
 - b. I am raising up the Babylonians...
 - i. *Their character*

God's Surprising Response to Habakkuk

4. How this all plays out in Habakkuk 1:5-11

b. I am raising up the Babylonians...

i. Their character

Habakkuk 1:6b, 7b

⁶I am raising up the Babylonians, that ruthless and impetuous people, who sweep across the whole earth to seize dwelling-places not their own.

⁷They are a feared and dreaded people; they are a law to themselves and promote their own honor.

God's Surprising Response to Habakkuk

- 4. *How this all plays out in Habakkuk 1:5-11*
 - b. I am raising up the Babylonians...
 - ii. *The reaction to these invaders*

God's Surprising Response to Habakkuk

4. How this all plays out in Habakkuk 1:5-11

b. I am raising up the Babylonians...

ii. The reaction to these invaders

Habakkuk 1:7a

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God's Surprising Response to Habakkuk

4. How this all plays out in Habakkuk 1:5-11

b. I am raising up the Babylonians...

iii. Their military prowess

God's Surprising Response to Habakkuk

4. How this all plays out in Habakkuk 1:5-11

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Habakkuk 1:8-10

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God's Surprising Response to Habakkuk

4. How this all plays out in Habakkuk 1:5-11

b. I am raising up the Babylonians...

iv. Their wickedness

God's Surprising Response to Habakkuk

4. How this all plays out in Habakkuk 1:5-11

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Habakkuk 1:11

¹¹Then they sweep past like the wind and go on—guilty men,
whose own strength is their god.”

Implications / Questions

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1. The Master Teacher God is...

Implications / Questions

2. Does God really use ALL circumstances for his purposes, even evil ones?

Implications / Questions

2. Does God really use ALL circumstances for his purposes, even evil ones?

Romans 8:28

²⁸And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Implications / Questions

3. If God is for us (like he was for Israel),
why would this happen?

Deuteronomy 28

¹If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands that I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. ²All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God:
³You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country.

Deuteronomy 28

¹⁵However, if you do not obey the LORD your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:
¹⁶You will be cursed in the city and cursed in the country. ¹⁷Your basket and your kneading trough will be cursed. ¹⁸The fruit of your womb will be cursed, and the crops of your land, and the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. ¹⁹You will be cursed when you come in and cursed when you go out.

Deuteronomy 28

⁴⁹The LORD will bring a nation against you from far away, from the ends of the earth, like an eagle swooping down, a nation whose language you will not understand, ⁵⁰a fierce-looking nation without respect for the old or pity for the young. ⁵¹They will devour the young of your livestock and the crops of your land until you are destroyed. They will leave you no grain, new wine or oil, nor any calves of your herds or lambs of your flocks until you are ruined. ⁵²They will lay siege to all the cities throughout your land until the high fortified walls in which you trust fall down. They will besiege all the cities throughout the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Job 38:1-6

¹Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm. He said: ²“Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge?

³Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. ⁴“Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand. ⁵Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? ⁶On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone.”

Implications / Questions

4. The difference between God's wrath
and discipline

Wrath

John 3:36

³⁶“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him.”

Discipline

Hebrews 12:5-11

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Discipline

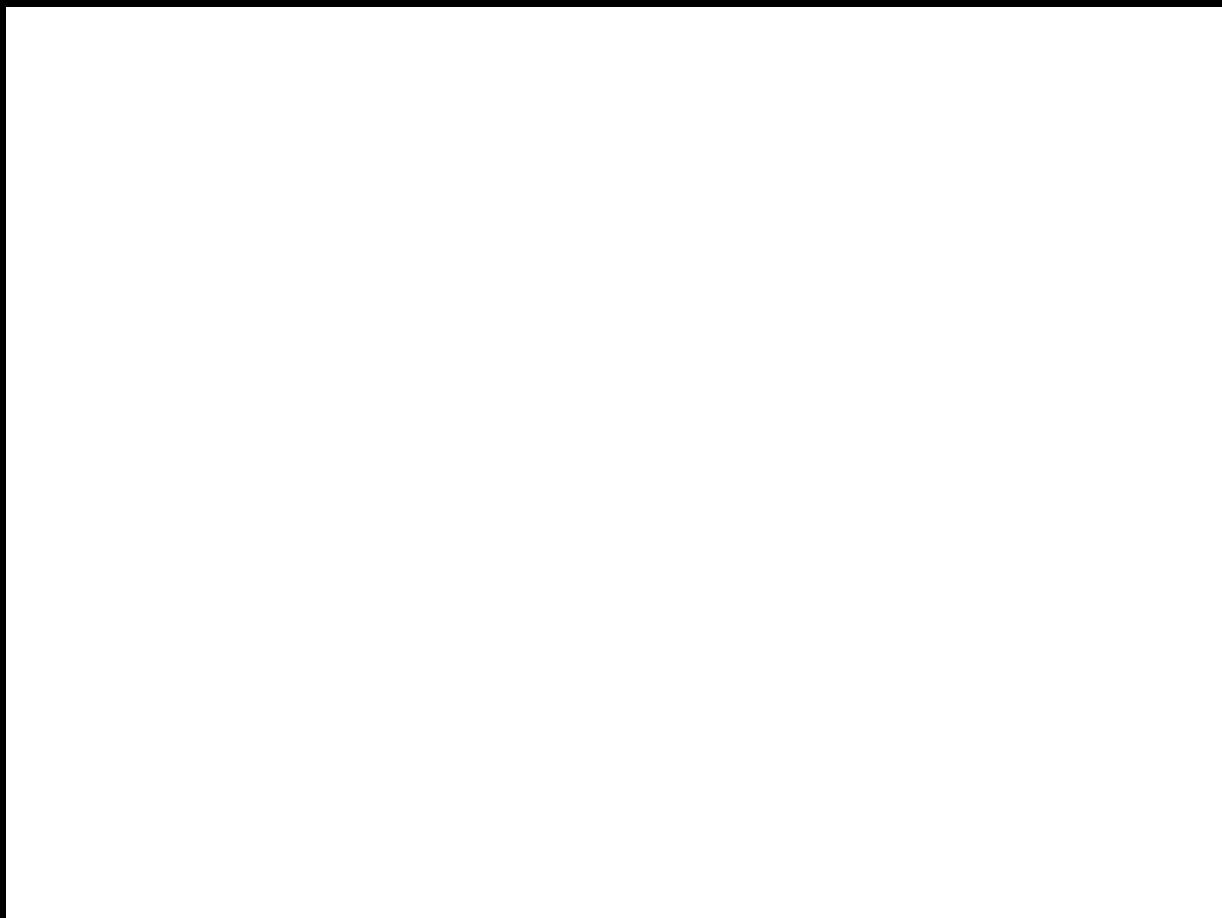
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Is he safe?



Is he safe?

"Safe?" said Mr Beaver; "don't you hear what Mrs Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's *good*. He's the King, I tell you."

