

Make It Clear

I. Introduction

Expectation and Delay

Heidi B., "If we don't quit, we win."

II. Habakkuk's Process

A. The Difficulty with Evil

Increased turmoil, rising terrorism, mounting tragedies, unprecedented trauma, increasing pollution, deepening trials, and unparalleled tensions cast dark shadows over earthlings. The world looks more and more like some ominous black sphere with a very short fuse, a time bomb sizzling to explode.

Why is there so much oppression? Why all the injustice? Why do evil men prosper? Why do the righteous suffer? Why doesn't God do something? Why doesn't God clean up this mess? Why? Why? Why?

Hab. 1:2 O LORD, **how long shall I cry for help**, and **you will not hear**? Or cry to you "Violence!" and **you will not save**?

3 Why do you make me see iniquity, and **why do you idly look at wrong**? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. **4** So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For **the wicked surround the righteous**; so justice goes forth perverted.

The Response

5 "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. **[SLIDE 1]**

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; ... 9 They all **come for violence**, ... They **gather captives** like sand ... 11 ... **guilty men, whose own might is their god!**"

Theological Objection

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 **purser 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?

B. Waiting for the Promises

Hab. 2:1 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.

2 And the LORD answered me: "**Write** the **vision**; **make it plain** on tablets, so **he may run** who **reads it**. [SLIDE 2]

3 For still the **vision awaits its appointed time**; it **hastens** (exhales)* to the end—it **will not lie**. If it **seems** slow, **wait** for it; it will **surely come**; it **will not delay**. *It is finished [SLIDE 2]

Hab. 2:4 "Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but **the righteous shall live by his faith**. (*ba—in, at*)

Heb 10:36 For you have **need of endurance**, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. 37 For, "Yet a little while,

and the coming one will come and will not delay;
38 but **my righteous one shall live by faith**, (*ek—out of*)
and if he shrinks back, (*LXX*)

my soul has no pleasure in him.”

Heb. 10:39 But we are not ***of those*** who shrink back and are destroyed, but ***of those*** who have faith and preserve their souls.

This issue is “fall apart” or be “made whole”
(to the saving of the soul)

11:1 ***Now faith is*** the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

3 By faith we understand that ***the universe was created by the word of God***, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Retribution for EVIL – delayed but inevitable

Hab. 2:9 **“Woe to him who gets evil gain for his house,** t...

11 ***For the stone will cry out from the wall, and the beam from the woodwork respond.***

DISPLACEMENT OF EVIL – evil is temporary REWARD ETERNAL

[SLIDE 3]

14 ***For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.***

C. Hearing the Report of the Lord

Hab. 3:2 O LORD, I have **heard** the report of you, and your work, O LORD, do I fear. In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy.

NIV LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O LORD. **Renew them in our day, in our time make them known;** in wrath remember mercy.

THE PAROUSIA

3 *God came from Teman, and the Holy One from Mount Paran.*

*Selah **His splendor covered the heavens**, and **the earth was full of his praise.***

4 His brightness was like the light; rays flashed from his hand; and there he veiled his power.

NIV His splendor was like the sunrise; rays flashed from his hand, where his power was hidden.

6 He stood and *measured the earth*; he looked and *shook the nations*; then the eternal mountains were scattered; the everlasting hills sank low. **His were the everlasting ways.**

16 *I hear*, and my **body trembles**; my **lips quiver** at the sound; rottenness enters into my bones; my legs tremble beneath me. **Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble to come upon people who invade us.**

"I've got a feeling this darkness won't last very long"

D. Resolution: SET FREE FROM CIRCUMSTANCES

Hab. 3:17 Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, **18** yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

19 GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places. To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments.

HABAKKUK HEARD AND TURNED!

In the beginning was the Word...

The Word of the Lord endures forever

By faith we understand

Yet will I rejoice in the Lord!

RELEASE GRACE for Presence in each Home

1 Cor 2:9 But, as it is written,
“What no eye has **seen**, nor ear **heard**,
nor the heart of man **imagined**,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—
10 these things God has **revealed to us** through the Spirit.