

Habakkuk
“God Where Are You”

~ INTRO ~

TODAY...

- We come to a topical message...
 - To help us navigate the cultural divide that is creating pain.

THIS DIVIDE...

- Is NOT new to history!
 - It's just NEW to existing generations.

THE BIBLE IS FILLED...

- With senseless-injustices & violence...
 - When people abandon the personal reality of God.

NOW... I HOPE TO CAPTURE YOUR ATTENTION...

- Because we're living thru complex times.

WHEN SIN FIRST ENTERED THE WORLD...

- Man began hiding from God!

THREE EXAMPLES:

- 1) Adam & Eve = (Gen. 3:8-10) NLT Hid from God after they sinned.
 - Even though they “*heard God*”...
 - Yet... they hid for Him.

TODAY'S REMEDY: (Heb. 3:7-8) NLT

- 2) Cain & Abel = (Gen. 4:6-7) NLT God came to Cain before He sinned...
 - Trying to help him avoid a BAD... life-changing decision.
 - The same thing He offers us.

TODAY'S REMEDY: (John 3:17) NLT

- 3) Within the first six chapters of the Bible – Noah (Gen. 6:11-12) NLT...
 - God says the earth was *corrupt* & filled with *violence*!

TODAY'S REMEDY: (Heb. 4:16) NLT

Habakkuk
“*God Where Are You*”

~STUDY~

IN THE O.T. BOOK OF HABAKKUK...

- God gives us a glimpse into the fearful struggle of a man...
 - Who was watching the fabric of his country unravel.
- Habakkuk spoke to God's people...
 - When his culture was being overran with violence.
 - He was perplexed over God's permission of unchecked evil.

IDEA #1 – I HAVE QUESTIONS:

NOW... THIS BOOK...

- Was NOT addressed to a nation, BUT to a man – Habakkuk.
 - Because he needed a faith perspective...
 - When moral & spiritual decline marked the nation...
 - When justice was twisted & violence filled the streets.

(Hab. 1:2-3) NLT

“How long shall I call for help & You don't hear me?”

“VIOLENCE is everywhere, but You don't come to save.”

THESE ARE CONDITIONS...

- You and I can relate too today!!!
 - And the hazard is... that it makes us weary.

(GANG)... IT'S NOT ALWAYS...

- The depth of our struggles that break us down.
 - Sometimes it's the length of them...
 - That takes a toll on our lives & we give up!

(Matt. 24:12) NLT

THE NATIONAL PROBLEM OF HABAKKUK'S TIME...

- Was caused by leaders who didn't obey the law.

(v.4) NLT

Habakkuk
“God Where Are You”

“Judgment was perverse”

- The idea IS... justice / truth was distorted...
 - And bent out of context.

HABAKKUK HAD...

- Legitimate frustrations!

HERE’S THE LESSON:

- We’re to remain unshakable when evil prevails & God is silent.

HABAKKUK...

- Never left his post as a prophet...
 - Even though he was bewildered & confused at times.

IDEA #2 – GOD HAS ANSWERS:

READ (v.5) NLT

- This verse is used by the Apostle Paul in (Acts 13:38-41) NLT.

GOD HAS AN ANSWER TO THE CHAOS...

- But it’s only found by those willing to accept His way – Jesus.

TODAY...

- Our kids are being taught a worldview called **Scientism**!
- Under THIS banner of “Science” ...
 - Human touch / common sense / & morality...
 - Are ruled out!

THIS...

- **Scientism** is rooted in *naturalism*...
 - Meaning... there’s nothing beyond the natural.

THIS TYPE OF SCIENCE SAYS...

“There is no truth related to... right & wrong; virtue & vice; life after death; OR god himself.” (Scientism & Secularism, 2018)

Habakkuk
“God Where Are You”

IN RESPONSE...

- J.P. Moreland writes:

“By undermining moral knowledge, Scientism has provided the contemporary view of freedom... and it has led to moral chaos.”

CONTEMPORARY FREEDOM:

- The right to do whatever one wants to do.

Whereas...

- CLASSIC FREEDOM:
 - Is the power to do what ONE ought to do.
 - It's virtue = moral standards.

AND WHEN A COUNTRY IS DIVIDED...

- The whole system fail.
 - That's what Habakkuk was seeing...
 - AND that's what we're seeing today.

IDEA#3 – THIS IS HOW TO OVERCOME:

THE TURNING POINT OF FAITH (Hab. 2:4) NLT

- It's quoted (3x's) in the NT...
 - (Rom. 1:17) / (Gal. 3:11) / (Heb. 10:38)
 - “*The just shall live by faith*”

AND FINALLY... THE BOOK ENDS...

- With a change of perspective.

HABAKKUK...

- Moved from a heavy-heart TO a renewed joy (Hab. 3:17-19) NLT
 - Because he came to terms... that he was to live by faith...
 - AND God was dealing with the problems.

CAN I REMIND YOU OF A TRUTH...

- (Heb. 11:13-16) NLT

RIGHT NOW...

Habakkuk
“God Where Are You”

- We still experience the waves of “*Gas Lighting*”

DEFINED:

An increasing frequency of systematically withholding factual information from, and/or providing false information... [which] - has the gradual effect of making [people] anxious, confused, and less able to trust their own memory and perception.

THIS IS...

- In full-force by the enemies of Christ.

Paul asked for prayer & deliverance...

- From evil & wicked people like this (2 Thess. 3:1-2) NLT

AS A SPIRITUAL LEADER...

- I speak into ALL areas of your life...
 - By teaching you & reminding you of what God said...
 - And the grace He’s given to you!

SO... ONE MORE TIME I EXTEND HIS GRACE TO YOU...

- By pointing you to Jesus’ death & resurrection.