

UNANSWERED PRAYER AND THE PROBLEM OF EVIL IN HABAKKUK

Habakkuk 1:1-17

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- Have you ever read the book of Habakkuk? What do you already know about this short, Old Testament book?
- Think about a time when you've watched or read the news and wondered, *"What is this world coming to?"* or *"Lord, how can you let this happen? How can you let this go on?"* What feelings were you experiencing? Did you seek answers to your questions? Did you do anything as a result?

Have you ever wanted to ask God questions like: *"Are You listening to me?"*, *"God, why don't You answer me?"*, *"God, why did You do that?"* or *"Why don't You fix this?"* In the book of Habakkuk, the prophet asks God these questions and in his discourse we find answers to our questions about how evil can exist if we have a just God, how we should respond to unanswered prayers, and where we can find continued hope.

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- When you have questions about God, where do you turn first? Where did Habakkuk turn?
- Is God your talisman, your good luck charm? Do you listen to what he has to say only when it benefits you or do you abide by the laws you don't like as well?
- Do you ever catch yourself trying to protect God's image when bad things happen? How does that affect your faith? Has God asked you to do this? What HAS God asked you to do?
- In segment 3, host Dave Bast said, *"I think in this he [Habakkuk] shows us the way of faith, which is to hold onto both things: God, I don't understand You; I can't You figure out, but I still believe in You."* What biblical stories and life experiences encourage you as you seek to hold onto both of these truths?

Related Passages

- Psalm 14
- Genesis 50:15-21
- Acts 2:14-41
- 1 Peter 5:6-7
- Psalm 55

Conclusion

Reflect on this prayer from John Calvin's commentary on Habakkuk. Try rewriting this prayer and placing it in your Bible for future reference, or sharing it with someone who you think might benefit from it.

Grant, Almighty God, that since thou settest around us so many terrors, we may know that we ought to be roused, and to resist the sloth and tardiness of our flesh, so that thou mayest fortify us by a different confidence: and may we so recumb on thine aid, that we may boldly triumph over our enemies, and never doubt, but that thou wilt at length give us the victory over all the assaults of Satan and of the wicked; and may we also so look to thee, that our faith may wholly rest on that eternal and immutable covenant, which has been confirmed for us by the blood of thy only Son, until we shall at length be united to him who is our head, after having passed through all the miseries of the present life, and having been gathered into that eternal inheritance, which thy Son has purchased for us by his own blood. Amen.

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