

JUDGMENT, SALVATION, AND HOPE

The Message of the Minor Prophets

Habakkuk: *“I Will Rejoice in the Lord”*

Outline

1. The problem of evil
2. The mystery of God's ways
3. The call to live by faith

JUDGMENT,
SALVATION,
AND HOPE

1. The problem of evil

Habakkuk 1:1-4

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Habakkuk 1:1-4

The prophecy that Habakkuk the prophet received. ² How long, Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, “Violence!” but you do not save? ³ Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? 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.

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1. The problem of evil

Lessons

- Let's recognize the importance of asking hard questions

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New York Times Bestselling Author of
THE REASON FOR GOD and *THE PRODIGAL GOD*

TIMOTHY
KELLER

Walking with God
through
Pain and Suffering



How Long,
O Lord?

REFLECTIONS ON SUFFERING AND EVIL



D. A. CARSON

SECOND EDITION

Foreword by D. A. CARSON

WHAT ABOUT
EVIL?

A DEFENSE OF GOD'S
SOVEREIGN GLORY

SCOTT CHRISTENSEN

1. The problem of evil

Lessons

- Let's recognize the importance of asking hard questions
- There are some errors to avoid when discussing evil & suffering

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1. The problem of evil

Lessons

- Let's recognize the importance of asking hard questions
- There are some errors to avoid when discussing evil & suffering
- Understand that every philosophy, religion, or worldview must wrestle with the problem of evil

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“In a universe of blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, other people are going to get lucky, and you won't find any rhyme or reason in it, nor any justice. The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference.”

—Richard Dawkins

2. The mystery of God's ways

Habakkuk 1:5-17

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Habakkuk 1:5-7

“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; they are a law to themselves and promote their own honor.

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2. The mystery of God's ways

Lessons

- The God of the Bible surprises us because he is not like us.

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Habakkuk 1:12-13

Lord, are you not from everlasting? My God, my Holy One, you will never die. You, Lord, have appointed them to execute judgment; you, my Rock, have ordained them to punish. 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?

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“Is [God] willing to prevent evil but not able?
Then he is impotent. Is he able but not willing?
Then he is malevolent. Is both able and
willing? From whence then is evil?”

—David Hume

2. The mystery of God's ways

Lessons

- The God of the Bible surprises us because he is not like us.
- God is not only good and powerful, he is also infinitely and incomprehensibly wise.

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Romans 11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! ³⁴ “Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?” ³⁵ “Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?” ³⁶ For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

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3. The call to live by faith

Habakkuk 2–3

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Habakkuk 2:4b

⁴ “See, the enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright— but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness—

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Habakkuk 2:4b

KJV: “but the just shall live by his faith”

ESV: “but the righteous shall live by his faith”

CSB: “but the righteous one will live by his faith”

NIV: “but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness”

NLT: “but the righteous shall live by their faithfulness to God”

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3. The call to live by faith

How to live by faith:

a. Wait on God and expect him to act (2:1)

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Habakkuk 2:1

I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint.

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Psalm 130:5-6

I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits,
and in his word I put my hope.

⁶ I wait for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.

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3. The call to live by faith

How to live by faith:

- a. Wait on God and expect him to act (2:1)
- b. Trust in God's revelation of his character and plan (2:2-3)

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Habakkuk 2:2-3

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 will not delay.

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How to Read the Bible Book by Book

A Guided Tour



Gordon D. Fee

Douglas Stuart

God strikes the gavel five times —

(1) the plunderer is plundered (vv. 6-8)

(2) the haughty conqueror is shamed (vv. 9-11)

(3) the builder's building becomes fuel for the fire
(vv. 12-14)

(4) the one who forces the other to get drunk will
drink shame from the cup of God's wrath (vv.
15-17)

(5) and the silent idol is silenced before Yahweh,
who is present in his holy temple (vv.. 18-20).

3. The call to live by faith

How to live by faith:

- a. Wait on God and expect him to act (2:1)
- b. Trust in God's revelation of his character and plan (2:2-3)
- c. Stand in awe before God's transcendent holiness and sovereign wisdom (2:20: 3:2)

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Habakkuk 2:20; 3:2a

2:20 The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him....

3:2a Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds,

Lord.

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3. The call to live by faith

How to live by faith:

- a. Wait on God and expect him to act (2:1)
- b. Trust in God's revelation of his character and plan (2:2-3)
- c. Stand in awe before God's transcendent holiness and sovereign wisdom (2:20; 3:2)
- d. Remember God's mighty deeds (3:1-16)

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Habakkuk 3:1-2

A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet. . . 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 known; in wrath remember mercy.

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SALVATION,
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Foreword by D. A. CARSON

WHAT ABOUT EVIL?

A DEFENSE OF GOD'S
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“The glory [of God] is seen in the face of the divine hero of redemption – Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He immersed himself into the heart of evil on a black Friday and emerged from that evil on a bright Sunday three days later! He defeated death by death. Ironically, he crushed evil by loading its monstrous weight on his buckling body. He became the hero by being treated as a villain.”

3. The call to live by faith

How to live by faith:

- a. Wait on God and expect him to act (2:1)
- b. Trust in God's revelation of his character and plan (2:2-3)
- c. Stand in awe before God's transcendent holiness and sovereign wisdom (2:20; 3:2)
- d. Remember God's mighty deeds (3:1-16)
- e. Rejoice in the Lord, not in circumstances (3:17-19)

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SALVATION,
AND HOPE

Habakkuk 3:17-19

Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and 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.

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SALVATION,
AND HOPE



God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never failing skill
He treasures up His bright designs
And works His sovereign will.



Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy and shall break
In blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.



His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.

Blind unbelief is sure to err
And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.

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