

Habakkuk

Oh, the sins of civilizations. Habakkuk saw terrible sins in his day, and we see terrible sins in ours. He desired to see God discipline his erring countrymen as we do ours. Wouldn't it be nice if we saw no major sins prevalent today? Alas, judgment is on its way. If not in this life, certainly in eternity. God knows how to judge.

But God's justice doesn't always look right to us who are watching. Have you ever questioned God because something didn't seem fair to you? In the next passage of Habakkuk, he questions God's method of discipline because Babylon is even worse than Judah.

Applicability:

Has God ever taught you a lesson by an unbeliever?

- * Is it possible for a child to be saved in the home of unbelieving parents?
- * Is it possible for an unsaved boss to do better at work than a believer?
- * Is it possible for a Christian to learn family values from a Mormon?

Has God ever chastened you at the hands of an unbeliever?

- * Is it possible for an unsaved co-worker to admonish your laziness?
- * Is it possible for an unbelieving spouse to call you out on your anger?
- * Is it possible for a homosexual neighbor to confront you on your adultery?

Just as a matter of opinion, do you think Pearl Harbor or 9/11 were means of God's discipline on our nation? (Note: The state religion of Japan when they attacked the U.S. naval fleet was Shinto, a very animistic religion. 9/11 was an act of Jihad by Muslim extremists.)

Read Habakkuk 1:12-2:20

Habakkuk's second question: 1:12-2:1

In the midst of many questions, Habakkuk is really driving at what point? (Hint: verse 13).

At the time, the world had never seen an empire like Babylon expanding its borders. Habakkuk makes an interesting comparison between them and a fisher. What is the comparison?

God's second response: 2:2-20

This section is a prophetic word against Babylon. They aren't getting away with their sin. God issues five stark "woes" to them. What are they?

6-8 –

9-11 –

12-14 –

15-17 –

18-20 –

No one's sin is overlooked. Even though God may use a wicked man to judge a righteous man, it doesn't mean that the wicked are exempt from chastisement. Where do you think the vast majority of the ancient Babylonians are today?