

# Reflections from Habakkuk

BY PASTOR BRIAN BRODERSEN



***The Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and [He] gives it to whom-ever He chooses.***

Daniel 4:25b

God is sovereign over the nations and is providentially directing history. That's crucial to remember always, but especially when things don't go the way we think they should politically.

## Our Situation

As we see troubling trends in our nation, we cry out to God, wondering when He will intervene. But things don't seem to get any better. God's people, though, have been in similar situations before. Listen to Habakkuk:

***O LORD, how long shall I cry, and You will not hear? Even cry out to You, "Violence!" And You will not save. Why do You show me iniquity, and cause me to see trouble? ... the law is powerless, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; therefore perverse judgment proceeds.***

Habakkuk 1:1-4

The U.S. still has a somewhat law-abiding culture, even though we see signs of decay. But Habakkuk's words show us that things were much worse in his time. Note the Lord's response to Habakkuk's cry:

***Look among the nations and watch—Be utterly astounded! For I will work a work in your days which you would not believe, though it were told you. For indeed I am raising up the Chaldeans, a bitter and hasty nation ... to possess dwelling places that are not theirs.***

Habakkuk 1:5-6

I imagine Habakkuk was confused by this. The Chaldeans? They were a wicked nation, much worse than Israel. But they didn't have

the light that Israel had—and that Israel had sinned against. So the Lord tells Habakkuk that judgment is coming. And if we believe what the Bible tells us, we realize that a day of judgment is coming on us too. A nation cannot flaunt its sin in God's face forever without a response.

Nevertheless, we need to be encouraged because God is still at work. History's great revivals were generally preceded by dark days. Oftentimes, things must get worse before people wake up and realize they need Jesus.

## Our Vision

In chapter 2, Habakkuk says: ***"I will stand my watch and set myself on the rampart, and watch to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer when I am corrected. Then the LORD answered and said to me, 'Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it'"*** (verses 1-2).

What is the vision? The same as it's always been: We need to be growing in the Lord—walking with God, pursuing holiness. Additionally, we have a mandate to preach the Gospel to all people. That's our task regardless of what's happening in the nation's capital. What if it's prohibited someday? What would we do? Just what the apostles did: ***"Obey God rather than men"*** (Acts 5:29b). The Lord told us to preach the Gospel, so we will continue to preach and make disciples.

## Our Response

***O LORD, I have heard Your speech and was afraid.***

Habakkuk 3:2

Honestly, some of the things on the horizon are frightening. But I believe they are part of a bigger picture of judgment as God takes away the restraints. Listen to what Habakkuk says:

***O LORD, revive Your work in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy.***

Habakkuk 3:2

What are we to be doing? Interceding on behalf of our country—asking the Lord to be merciful, and praying for revival: ***"O LORD, revive Your work!"*** To revive means to bring back to life. And this is something the church desperately needs. Where is our passion? Where is our intense love for Jesus and constant pursuit of Him? That's what a revival is—when large numbers of people turn seriously to the Lord. When Jesus is not just a part of someone's life, but the center of it.

Many American churches have lost the 18- to 30-year-old age group. We need to pray that God will bring back that lost generation and fill the churches again with young people who can become His servants and go out with the Gospel as missionaries and evangelists. Lord, raise up a new generation.

Finally, we need to be praying for those who rule over us, ***"for kings and all who are in authority"*** (1 Timothy 2:2a). Scripture tells us that the king's heart is in the Lord's hands (Proverbs 21:1). We can pray for our president, our senators, and our representatives in congress and elsewhere to receive wisdom from the Lord.

Habakkuk declares in the end:

***Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls—yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.***

Habakkuk 3:17-18

The Lord is on the throne. He hasn't moved an inch. We are to be rejoicing in the Lord. Our hope is in Him and Him alone. ☞

*This article was taken from Pastor Brian's November 7, 2012, Wednesday evening Bible teaching. The entire message can be heard at <http://resource.cccm.com/media/weekly/OBB558.mp3>*