

Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets

Trusting God when He seems silent

Habakkuk 1:1-11

Historical Context:

18 Your shepherds are asleep, O king of Assyria; your nobles slumber. Your people are scattered on the mountains with none to gather them.

19 There is no easing your hurt; your wound is grievous. All who hear the news about you clap their hands over you. For upon whom has not come your unceasing evil?

Nahum 3:18-19

Josiah's Reforms 640 – 609 BC

Nineveh collapsed in 612 BC.

Josiah dies in battle in 609 BC.

Moral decay begins immediately

For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans,

Habakkuk 1:6a

Nebuchadnezzar and Babylonians (Chaldeans in our text) win battle to secure dominance of region in 605 BC.

Judah rebelled against Babylonians in 602 BC, and is quickly defeated.

Jerusalem is captured in 597 BC and Jehoiachin surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar.

Jerusalem destroyed in 586 BC.

Habakkuk 1:1-11

A. Habakkuk's example of Trusting God when He seems silent

1. Trusting takes _____

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Heb. 11:1

2. Trusting takes _____

"Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God." Psalm 42:11

3. Trusting takes _____

"This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him. For who is God, but the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God?"

Psalm 18:30-31

4. Trusting takes _____

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” *Philippians 4:6-7*

“Prayer is both a pleading with God that he will hear and act upon our requests and a trusting surrender to God in the confidence that he will act in his own time and way. But the confidence comes only through the struggle.” D. G. Bloesch

B. The Lord’s Answer is why we trust.

1. God is working in ways we cannot _____(Omniscience)
2. God is in _____ of all powers (Sovereign)
 - a. History is under God’s Control
 - b. History follows a divine plan
 - c. History follows a divine timetable
 - d. History is bound up with the divine kingdom

C. Questions to Ponder:

1. Is God silent or is He speaking/moving/working in ways we do not recognize?
2. Is God silent because I am acting like a Chaldean? Is my own might my god?
3. Is God silent or do I not accept his answer?

Habakkuk 1:1-11 English Standard Version

¹ The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw.

Habakkuk's Complaint

² O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not hear?

Or cry to you "Violence!"
and you will not save?

³ Why do you make me see iniquity,
and why do you idly look at wrong?
Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.

⁴ So the law is paralyzed,
and justice never goes forth.
For the wicked surround the righteous;
so justice goes forth perverted.

The LORD's Answer

⁵ "Look among the nations, and see;
wonder and be astounded.

For I am doing a work in your days
that you would not believe if told.

⁶ For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans,
that bitter and hasty nation,
who march through the breadth of the earth,
to seize dwellings not their own.

⁷ They are dreaded and fearsome;
their justice and dignity go forth from themselves.

⁸ Their horses are swifter than leopards,
more fierce than the evening wolves;
their horsemen press proudly on.

Their horsemen come from afar;
they fly like an eagle swift to devour.

⁹ They all come for violence,
all their faces forward.
They gather captives like sand.

¹⁰ At kings they scoff,
and at rulers they laugh.

They laugh at every fortress,
for they pile up earth and take it.

¹¹ Then they sweep by like the wind and go on,
guilty men, whose own might is their god!"