

Where Are You, God?
Series: Trusting God in Troubled Times (Habakkuk, #1)
Text: Habakkuk 1:1-4
Pastor Lyle L. Wahl
January 15, 2023

Introduction to Habakkuk.

- 1. The prophet.
- 2. The times.
- 3. The book.

Three Questions.

- 1. Why is the prayer of the righteous not answered? (2)
- 2. Why does God allow sin to dominate everywhere? (2b 3)
- 3. Why does God allow justice to take a beating? (4)

Three Lessons.

- 1. Live with your eyes wide open.
- 2. Go to God, keep going to God with all your questions.
- 3. Truth from and about God must move from the facts in our minds on through the feelings of our experience to be complete.

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. Read Habakkuk 1:1-4. Review any notes you made Sunday on the outline or in your Bible about the background of the book. The book opens with Habakkuk asking, "Where are You, God?" The first part of this was "Why is the prayer of the righteous not answered?" (verse 2). Think of your own past, and perhaps present, similar experiences. How have you responded?

Tuesday. The second specific question Habakkuk asked was "Why does God allow sin to dominate everywhere?" (verses 2b-3). Write out the terms he used to describe sinful actions and what they mean. Do you sometimes think God is napping while evil moves forward? Like Habakkuk, we know this isn't true (see Psalm 121:3-4), but it may seem to be the case. How do you deal with these thoughts and feelings?

Wednesday. The third specific question Habakkuk asked was "Why does God allow justice to take a beating?" (verse 4). We know these feelings. Wrong is called right, the righteous become the bad guys. Importantly, Habakkuk's concern was more for how this squared with God's nature and character and that it should be displayed than it was for his own distress. Do you share this concern with him?

Thursday. Sunday we noted three lessons from Habakkuk's opening questions. Walk through each one, applying them to yourself (check any notes you made on Sunday). We end the week with the questions — God does not speak until verse 5.

Friday – Saturday. On Sunday we plan to consider God's response to Habakkuk in 1:5-11. Read through 1:1-11 in preparation for our time together.