

Remember, God plays the long game.

Q: Why read Habakkuk?

A: It's in the Bible. Habakkuk is bursting at the seams with relevant Truth.

Q: Who was Habakkuk?

A: A prophet who was bothered by evil going unpunished.

Q: Why was the book written?

A: How do you respond when it seems like God is absent?

Complaint #1

- How long will I cry out with no answer? – 1:2 *O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save?*
- Why haven't you intervened? – 1:3 *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.*
- Corruption of justice – 1:4 *So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted.*

God's response

- Despite evil in the world, God is still at work in the world – 1:5 *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.*

- God's methods may not always make complete sense to us – 1:6a *For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans...*

Chaldeans' resume

- Ambitious – 1:6
- Lawless – 1:7
- Skilled at violence – 1:8-9
 - Compared to leopards, wolves, and eagles.
- Not intimidated – 1:10
- Narcissistic and guilt-ridden – 1:11

“The Chaldeans were about to be raised up, not merely as a political power, but to perform a special part of the Divine plan.”¹

Complaint #2

- Since you're God, why are you waiting to intervene? – 1:13b *why do you idly look at traitors and remain silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he?*
- How long? – 1:17

Q: How should we respond?

- 1) Call evil for what it is.
- 2) Remember, God plays the long game.
- 3) Walk in confidence of God's promises – 2:4

¹ Charles F. Pfeiffer, *The Wycliffe Bible Commentary: Old Testament* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1962), Habakkuk 1:6.