



With so much evil and sin everywhere, have you ever wondered why God does not do something about it? Well, this is exactly the question the prophet Habakkuk asked God. He saw terrible things happening in his home country of Judah that he complained to God, “Why do you tolerate all the injustice in Judah?” (1:1-4).

Habakkuk prays and asks God to divinely intervene and stop the sinning. God replies and indicates that He is doing something... He is raising up the Babylonians (Chaldeans) to judge Judah for their sins and will bring destruction.

God’s answer is *not* what Habakkuk expected. Shocked, Habakkuk objects and cannot understand why God would do such a thing. After all, the Babylonians are no better than the Assyrians, and are both significantly worse than the Jews. Habakkuk hopes God will alter this seemingly unfair punishment on Judah, but God does not relent. God assures His prophet that the evil Babylonians will also in due time face their own judgment. Habakkuk accepts the coming judgment on Judah, even though it terrifies him. Habakkuk knows God is just and therefore he will place his trust and faith in Him. Habakkuk, like Job who also questioned God’s justice many centuries earlier, are never told why God does what He does. Yet, both decide to trust God. Judah does fall to the Babylonians in 586 BC and the Babylonian Empire falls in 539 BC to the Persians. Both prophecies fulfilled in one generation.

The final chapter of Habakkuk is different from the first two chapters. Despite the coming judgment on his hometown of Judah, the prophet writes a moving and powerful prayer-song that he sets to music and sings to God declaring that he will rejoice and find strength in God.

The Book of Habakkuk teaches us that often we do not understand how God is working. Like Habakkuk, we ask why God does not intervene and do something. This book (and Job) tells us to trust in God’s long-range plan, and in the meantime, rejoice knowing God is control of the outcome.

Whether we understand it or not, do we have sufficient faith and trust that God is at work?