

## **Habakkuk 1:1-2:2 Why doesn't God do something?**

What do you do when things happen that seem unfair?

Is it OK to complain to God?

Background: Habakkuk was a prophet around 600BC during King Josiah's reign just before they went into Exile in Babylon. The book is unique because rather than being a direct message from God to the Israelites it is a dialogue between the prophet himself and God.

*Read Habakkuk 1:1-4.*

1. Describe the injustice that greatly concerned Habakkuk?
2. What were Habakkuk's specific complaints against God?
3. How would you boil down Habakkuk's complaints into one simple question?

*Read Habakkuk 1:5-11*

4. Verse 5 begins with God telling Habakkuk that he will be "utterly amazed." What did God say that must have astonished and confused Habakkuk?
5. What, according to this passage, was the normal way that Babylonians did battle?
6. Why was this Judgement going to come on the Israelites? See Deuteronomy 28:1-2; 15; 49-52

*Read Habakkuk 1:12-2:1*

7. Find each question Habakkuk asked in this passage. What did Habakkuk really want to know?

8. Notice, in verse 12, the names Habakkuk used to address God. What does each of these names suggest about God's character?
9. How would reflecting on God's character help Habakkuk deal with his questions?
10. The phrase, in verse 12, "we will not die" , is generally thought to refer to the covenant God made with Abraham (Gen 12) - that He would make a great nation of the Israelites and their descendants. Why do you think Habakkuk would mention this covenant at this time?

Think:

11. Like Habakkuk, How might reflecting on God's character help us cope with the trials and hardships we face?
12. What does this passage teach us about Jesus and the gospel?
13. Why do suffering and trials come into Christian's lives and how does God use them? See James 1:2-5, Hebrews 12:5-11
14. Discuss how it is possible for God to be Powerful, Loving and Good and yet still allow bad things to happen?

Share any hardships with the group that you would like prayer for.

Pray for Youth Group and its leaders; Pray for Church Finances and an increasing spirit of generosity among us.