Crossroads International Church Matthew Lyle

Series: Habakkuk: What in the World, God…. 2025-10-12

***Habakkuk 1:12-2:1***

**Really… Them?**

**When God uses the wicked to judge His people.**

**Topic:** When God uses wicked people and unjust systems to fulfill His purposes.

**Question**: How can a holy God use evil nations like Babylon to judge His own people?

**Answer**: God’s justice is often beyond our understanding, but He is always working out His purposes—even through unlikely instruments. Real faith brings hard questions to God and chooses to wait for His response.

**Purpose**: To show that real faith doesn’t ignore injustice or confusion—it brings honest questions to God, struggles deeply, and chooses to wait in trust.

**Context**: Habakkuk is responding to God’s shocking answer in 1:5–11—that He is raising up Babylon to judge Judah. The prophet is confused and disturbed by God’s use of a more wicked nation to punish His people.

**Reason**: Life often feels upside-down when evil prospers and justice is delayed. We are tempted to question God’s fairness, but the book of Habakkuk shows us that faithful people can wrestle with God without walking away from Him.

**Background**: Habakkuk ministered during a time of moral decay in Judah, likely in the late 7th century B.C., as the Babylonian Empire rose to power. God had warned Judah of judgment, and now He reveals that He will use Babylon—known for its brutality—as His instrument. This raises deep theological and emotional questions for the prophet.

**Big Idea**: God’s justice may confuse us, but His holiness and sovereignty ensure that even His use of the wicked serves His righteous purposes.

***Habakkuk 1:12-2:1***

**Really… Them?**

**When God uses the wicked to judge His people.**

I. Faith Can Question Honestly (1:12–13)

“God, You’re holy — so how can You do this?”

Real Faith …

A. Acknowledges God’s sovereignty

* Affirm what you know to be true before expressing what you don’t understand
* Real faith starts with ***WHO GOD IS*,** not ***HOW LIFE FEELS***.

B. Appeals to God’s Character

* Habakkuk’s question flows from his faith
* The stronger your belief in God’s goodness, the harder it is to reconcile with evil

Side notes:

**God Is Eternal**

*The Bible tells us that God Is Eternal — From Everlasting to Everlasting*

(*Psalm 90:2; Habakkuk 1:12*)

God is not a created being. Everything that begins has a cause — but God never began.  
The universe had a beginning; therefore, it requires an uncaused cause.  
Only God fits that description — the eternal One, from eternity to eternity.

***“We Shall Not Die” and God’s Promises to Israel***

Habakkuk’s confidence reflects God’s covenant faithfulness to Israel.  
Though judgment would come, Israel would not be destroyed — because God’s promises stand firm.

*See the unfulfilled promises at the back of these notes for additional details.*

II. Faith Can Struggle Deeply (1:14–17)

“God, this feels upside-down.”

Real Faith …

A. Wrestles with God’s Plan

* Real faith doesn’t hide frustration — it brings confusion into prayer.
* Faith sometimes means trusting when the scoreboard looks wrong.

B. Waits through Apparent Injustice

* Faith continues to trust **in** God rather than **blame** God.
* Even when evil seems unchecked, faith keeps talking *to* God, not *about* Him.
* Faith that struggles honestly can still cling tenaciously.

III. Faith Waits Expectantly (2:1)

[“I will stand at my watch…”

* Real faith doesn’t demand immediate answers.
* Real faith waits — because it knows God is not done speaking

**Response**:

* **Reflect**: Where in your life are you saying, “Really… Them?” about God’s plan? (e.g., an unfair situation at work, a family struggle, or a societal injustice). Write down one specific question you have for God about His methods.
* **Affirm**: Memorize Habakkuk 1:12 (“Lord, are you not from everlasting? My God, my Holy One…”) to remind yourself of God’s unchanging character when His plans confuse you.
* **Question Honestly**: Set aside 5–10 minutes this week to pray your “why” questions to God. Be specific, like Habakkuk, and approach Him with reverence.
* **Wait Faithfully**: Commit to one act of trust while waiting for God’s answer (e.g., read a chapter of Scripture daily, join a small group to discuss your questions, or serve someone despite your confusion).
* **Share**: Discuss your questions or this sermon’s message with a trusted friend or small group. How has God shown His faithfulness in confusing times?

**List of Unfulfilled Promises to Israel**

* These promises are given specifically to **ethnic and national Israel** — God’s chosen people descended from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
* They reveal that God’s **covenant faithfulness to Israel remains unbroken**, and that He will fulfill every promise made to them as a nation in His appointed time.

**1. Full Possession and Peace in the Land**

* **Promise:** God pledged to Abraham and his descendants the land “from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates” (Gen. 15:18–21).
* **Status:** Israel has never possessed the full extent or permanent peace promised.
* **Future fulfillment:** Restored Israel will dwell securely in the land under God’s protection (Ezek. 28:25–26; Amos 9:14–15; Zech. 2:10–12).

**2. National Repentance and Salvation of Israel**

* **Promise:** God will one day remove Israel’s hardness of heart and bring national repentance and renewal (Deut. 30:1–6; Ezek. 36:24–28; Zech. 12:10–13:1).
* **New Testament confirmation:** “All Israel will be saved” when they turn to their Messiah (Rom. 11:25–27).
* **Status:** Awaiting future national turning to Christ.

**3. The New Covenant Fully Realized in Israel**

* **Promise:** A new covenant with Israel and Judah — sins forgiven, hearts renewed, God’s Spirit indwelling (Jer. 31:31–34; Ezek. 36:26–28).
* **Fulfillment:** Inaugurated through Jesus’ death (Luke 22:20), but Israel’s **national participation** awaits their repentance and restoration (Rom. 11:26–27).
* **Status:** Partially fulfilled in the Church, fully realized in Israel’s future restoration.

**4. Israel’s Role Among the Nations**

* **Promise:** Israel will be a **light to the nations** and serve as a **priestly people** (Exod. 19:5–6; Isa. 60:1–3; Zech. 8:20–23).
* **Fulfillment:** Future — the nations will come to Jerusalem to worship the Lord (Mic. 4:1–3; Zech. 14:16–19).
* **Status:** Yet to be fulfilled globally.

**List of Unfulfilled Promises to Israel *and* the Church**

* These promises reach beyond ethnic Israel to include all who belong to the Messiah — Jews and Gentiles alike — fulfilling God’s covenant purpose through Christ.

**1. Restoration of the Davidic Kingdom**

* **Promise:** God promised David an everlasting throne (2 Sam. 7:12–16; Ps. 89:3–4).
* **Fulfillment in Christ:** Jesus, the Son of David, will reign forever (Luke 1:32–33).
* **Future expectation:** The visible, righteous reign of the Messiah — first over a restored Israel, then over all nations (Isa. 9:6–7; Rev. 11:15).
* **Shared with the Church:** Believers will reign *with Christ* (2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 20:4–6).

**2. The Messianic Kingdom of Peace and Justice**

* **Promise:** A worldwide kingdom of peace, righteousness, and renewal under the Messiah’s rule (Isa. 2:2–4; 11:1–10; Mic. 4:1–4).
* **Fulfillment:** The return of Christ and establishment of His reign (Rev. 20:1–6; 21:1–4).
* **Scope:** Includes **Israel’s restoration** and the **Church’s participation** as co-heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:17; Eph. 1:10).
* **Status:** Future — awaits Christ’s physical return and kingdom.