HABAKKUK AND GOD
Habakkuk expresses a plea for God to judge the violence and unrighteousness of the nation of Judah.
We could express a similar wish for our nation today:
- Deadly violence against innocent children has occurred in our schools
  - Our nation is in shock and horror at
  - 20 innocent children being killed at that elementary school in Connecticut one day
- But that is just the hem of the garment when it comes to the violence and unrighteousness in our nation
  - The horror of abortion
    - Over 46 innocent babies are aborted every day just in Connecticut -2008 stats from pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute -
    http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/sfaa/connecticut.html
    - Where is the outrage and outcry over that daily massacre that happens not only in CT but throughout our nation
  - The abandonment of God and His word by our society and government
  - The righteous are surrounded the wicked and justice is twisted
- We should be pleading with God to do something about it
- We might ask Him how long He will listen to our cries without action to change these circumstances?
Habakkuk 1:5–7 (ESV)

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. 6 For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, who march through the breadth of the earth, to seize dwellings not their own. 7 They are dreaded and fearsome; their justice and dignity go forth from themselves.

God answers the prophet Habakkuk by permitting him to see a vision of what God will do to put a stop to the wickedness in Judah
- He is bringing the Chaldeans in judgment on them
- He goes on to describe in great detail what it will be like when sinful Judah is overrun
Habakkuk 1:8–11 (ESV)

8 Their horses are swifter than leopards, more fierce than the evening wolves; their horsemen press proudly on. Their horsemen come from afar; they fly like an eagle swift to devour. 9 They all come for violence, all their faces forward. They gather captives like sand. 10 At kings they scoff, and at rulers they laugh. They laugh at every fortress, for they pile up earth and take it. 11 Then they sweep by like the wind and go on, guilty men, whose own might is their god!”

Habakkuk is horrified to see this vision of the destruction of his own nation. This is not at all what he was expecting or desiring when he pled with the Lord to bring the wickedness of Judah to an end.
For Habakkuk, the idea of Judah, as wicked as it had become, being destroyed by the Babylonians, was not just horrifying, it was unjust.

So he brings a new question to God. Now it is not, “How long will you allow the wicked to prosper?” Now it is, “How can you let wicked Judah be destroyed by even more wicked Babylon?”
Habakkuk 2:2–4 (ESV)

2 And the LORD answered me: “Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it. 3 For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay. 4 “Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.

The importance and certainty of God’s will and revelation are emphasized. The unrighteous will receive judgment, but it may require patience to see this accomplished. The righteous shall live by faith – quoted three times in the NT - Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38
Five Woes Against Babylon

- Woe upon lust of conquest and plunder  
  - v. 6-8
- Woe upon effort to build a permanent empire through cruelty and godless gain  
  - v. 9-11
- Woe upon building cities with blood  
  – v. 12-14

God is judging wicked Judah, but he will also judge wicked Babylon
- Five reasons are given why Babylon must be judged and fall
- They are pronounced as a series of five woes or curses
Habakkuk 2:12–14 (ESV)

12 “Woe to him who builds a town with blood and founds a city on iniquity! 13 Behold, is it not from the LORD of hosts that peoples labor merely for fire, and nations weary themselves for nothing? 14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.
Five Woes Against Babylon

- Woe upon lust of conquest and plunder - v. 6-8
- Woe upon effort to build a permanent empire through cruelty and godless gain - v. 9-11
- Woe upon building cities with blood – v. 12-14
- Woe upon cruelty in the treatment of conquered kings and nations – v. 15-17
- Woe upon idolatry – v. 18-20
See the contrast between the so-called gods of Babylon and the living God!!!
They are speechless, silent, and have no breath in them
Jehovah, however, is not speechless or silent. No, rather, all the earth is silent before Him!!!
The living God is in His holy temple at all times. We would do well to remember that at all times, and act accordingly.
Habakkuk has been told that his concerns about wickedness in Judah will be solved the conquering armies of Babylon.
He has been told that his concerns about the wickedness of Babylon will be solved by a righteous judgments of a holy God.
Chapter three is the prophet’s response to the LORD of heaven and earth.

- He expresses reverence and fear for God
- He begs God to have mercy in His judgment
- He then describes the power and majesty of God as He executes judgment on the nations (Hab. 3:3-12)
13 You went out for the salvation of your people, for the salvation of your anointed. You crushed the head of the house of the wicked, laying him bare from thigh to neck. Selah
14 You pierced with his own arrows the heads of his warriors, who came like a whirlwind to scatter me, rejoicing as if to devour the poor in secret.…
16 I hear, and my body trembles; my lips quiver at the sound; rottenness enters into my bones; my legs tremble beneath me. Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble to come upon people who invade us.

- Now he describes God in his majesty striking a blow in deliverance of His people
- The things he has heard causes Habakkuk to tremble, quiver and shake
- He has no strength when he considers what is to come
- Yet Vs. 16 is an answer to the counsel of God in Hab. 2:3-4
Habakkuk 2:2–4 (ESV)

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What will we do in our day?
We should raise our voices to God begging Him to bring an end to the wickedness and violence we see all around us.
But we must realize that the way God chooses to accomplish that may be very different from our preferences.
- It may be hard for us to understand
- It may take longer than we would like
- Will we live by our faith?
Habakkuk 3:17–19 (ESV)

17 Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, 18 yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. 19 GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer’s; he makes me tread on my high places. To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments.

Habakkuk knows now that things are going to get much worse before they get better for himself and his people. And yet he shows us that faith triumphs, and can rejoice, in spite of - Judah wickedness - Judah’s destruction at the hands of a nation more wicked than she

Because God is in control. He gives strength to His faithful servants, even when there is no other source of strength available, and especially when there is no other source of strength available

What is wrong in our world? How much worse is it going to get before it gets better? Does God have your permission to turn the world upside down if it will accomplish His purposes? Do you have the faith that will enable you to rejoice in the Lord, even when all other hope has vanished?

The righteous one shall live by his faith!