

4. What does it all mean?

Verse 5 . For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.

I am going to be bringing salvation out of judgment.

I'm going to be bringing justice out of injustice.

Years later, Paul in Acts 13:38. I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.³⁹ Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.

Acts 13:41; Paul is quoting Habakkuk 1:5 'Look ... and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.' "

Paul is saying, when God said to Habakkuk, I will use injustice to bring about ultimate justice.

Paul's saying in Acts that Habakkuk 1:5 principal ,had it's ultimate expression in Jesus.

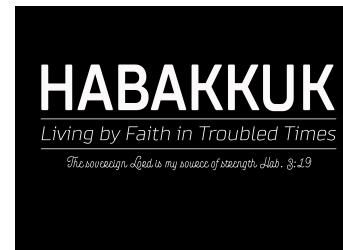
Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves? Habakkuk 1:13

Remember He was the one in the garden of Gethsemane who said, *"Father, is there any way out of this? If it be possible, let this cup pass from me."* Yet he said, *"Not my will but thy will be done."*

Remember On the cross, Jesus actually said, *"Where are you, Father? Why have you forsaken me?"*

**Jesus is a picture of the ultimate Habakkuk.
Faithful despite ultimate injustice.**

Habakkuk 1:1-17



1 The prophecy that Habakkuk the prophet received.
2 How long, Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save?³ Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? Destruction and

violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds.⁴ Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.

⁵ "Look at the nations and watch—and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.⁶ I am raising up the Babylonians, that ruthless and impetuous people, who sweep across the whole earth to seize dwellings not their own.⁷ They are a feared and dreaded people; they are a law to themselves and promote their own honor.⁸ Their horses are swifter than leopards, fiercer than wolves at dusk. Their cavalry gallops headlong; their horsemen come from afar. They fly like an eagle swooping to devour;⁹ they all come intent on violence. Their hordes advance like a desert wind and gather prisoners like sand.¹⁰ They mock kings and scoff at rulers. They laugh at all fortified cities; by building earthen ramps they capture them.¹¹ Then they sweep past like the wind and go on—guilty people, whose own strength is their god."¹² Lord, are you not from everlasting? My God, my Holy One, you will never die. You, Lord, have appointed them to execute judgment; you, my Rock, have ordained them to punish.¹³ Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?¹⁴ You have made people like the fish in the sea, like the sea creatures that have no ruler.¹⁵ The wicked foe pulls all of them up with hooks, he catches them in his net, he gathers them up in his dragnet; and so he rejoices and is glad.¹⁶ Therefore he sacrifices to his net and burns incense to his dragnet, for by his net he lives in luxury and enjoys the choicest food.¹⁷ Is he to keep on emptying his net, destroying nations without mercy?

1. What Did Habakkuk See In His day?

Vs.3 Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?

"As fish are caught in a cruel net, or birds are taken in a snare, so men are trapped by evil times that fall unexpectedly upon them." Ecclesiastes 9:12

vs. 4 The law has become paralyzed;

Here's the key issue: From Habakkuk perspective God isn't appearing to do anything about it.

2. How did Habakkuk Approach God?

Because in verses 2–4, Habakkuk says,
"Why are you letting evil and injustice reign?"

Vs.3b Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?

Vs.12 "O Lord, **are you not** from everlasting?" "Are you not infinite?"

Habakkuk is challenging God.

God answers in verses 5–11

"I'm raising up the Babylonians. I'm raising up the most ruthless, bloodthirsty people the world has ever seen. They're going to sweep across the world, and they're going to crush and conquer your country."

Habakkuk says: *"I just complained, 'Why are you letting evil and injustice reign?' and your answer is, 'Wait till you see the evil, violence and oppression that's coming?'"*

Habakkuk is challenging God. He is asking questions. He is struggling with doubts. But on the other hand, the thought never even enters into his mind that it's an option to walk away from God, to stop obeying or praying to God.

See verse 12 Habakkuk prays, " My God, my Holy One,"
I'd call it *"wrestling faithfully"* as he challenges God.

You have taken from me friend and neighbor—darkness is my closest friend.

Psalm 39:13

Look away from me, that I may enjoy life again before I depart and am no more."

Psalm 88:18

Derek Kidner, a Bible commentator, says these prayers above make no more sense than Peter's statement to Jesus, after seeing the miracle of the fish catch.

Simon Peter... fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

Luke 5:8

Kidner says, *"The very presence of such prayers in Scripture is a witness to God's understanding."*

Do you know why God puts the prayer of Habakkuk in the Bible for us to read centuries later? He knows how we speak when we're desperate, and here's what Pastor Tim Keller says:

"I am their God not because they put on a happy face, because they don't; not because they have perfect emotional self-control, because they don't; and not because they're doing everything just right, because they're not. I remain their God because of my grace, because my relationship to them is not based on their performance. It's because of my unconditional, covenantal committed love."

Tim Keller

3. What did Habakkuk Hear From God?

Verse 5 "For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told?" "I am raising up the Babylonians, that ruthless and impetuous people, who sweep across the whole earth ..."

You and I have the advantage of history.

The succession of dominant world powers (first were the Assyrians and then the Babylonians followed by Alexander and the Greeks and ultimately the Romans) if they hadn't arisen, Christianity never would have spread.