

New Sermon series starting 21 April

HABAKKUK

a minor prophet

This people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me.

- Isaiah 29:13

9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick;

- Jeremiah 17:9



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REFORM

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15. April 2024, 22:27 Uhr

"Gott ist queer": Kirche stellt sich hinter Pfarrer aus Wiesmoor

Stand: 16.06.2023 20:44 Uhr

Der evangelische Pfarrer Quinton Ceasar aus Wiesmoor wird im Internet massiv beleidigt. Er hatte auf dem Kirchentag gesagt: "Gott ist queer." In der Kirche findet er Rückhalt, im Netz wird er beschimpft.

Big Questions in Habakkuk:

- If God is good, then why is there evil in the world?
- And if there has to be evil, then why do the evil prosper?
- What is God doing against it and why does he take so long?

Big Themes in Habakkuk:

- God's sovereign control of history
- The ultimate goal of history
- God's justice/salvation
- How to live faithfully in the midst of a corrupt generation
- Waiting upon the Lord.

Outline of Habakkuk:

- Habakkuk's Complaint (Hab. 1:1-4)
- The Lord's Response (Hab. 1:5-11)
- Habakkuk's Second Complaint (Hab. 1:12-17)
- The Lord's Response (Hab. 2)
- Habakkuk's Prayer of Praise (Hab. 3)

1 The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw. 2 O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will not save? 3 Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. 4 So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted.

- Habakkuk 1:1-4

The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw.

- Habakkuk 1:1

2 O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will not save? 3 Why do you make me see iniquity (injustice), and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; *strife* and contention arise.

- Habakkuk 1:2-3

Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years. . . 2 He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, following the detestable practices of the nations the Lord had driven out before the Israelites. 3 He rebuilt the high places his father Hezekiah had destroyed; he also erected altars to Baal and made an Asherah pole, as Ahab king of Israel had done. He bowed down to all the starry host and worshiped them. 4 He built altars in the temple of the Lord, of which the Lord had said, "In Jerusalem I will put my Name." 5 In the two courts of the temple of the Lord, he built altars to all the starry hosts. 6 He sacrificed his own son in the fire, practiced divination, sought omens, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the Lord, arousing his anger. . .

7 He took the carved Asherah pole he had made and put it in the temple, of which the Lord had said to David and to his son Solomon, “In this temple and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my Name forever. 8 I will not again make the feet of the Israelites wander from the land I gave their ancestors, if only they will be careful to do everything I commanded them and will keep the whole Law that my servant Moses gave them.” 9 But the people did not listen. Manasseh led them astray, so that they did more evil than the nations the Lord had destroyed before the Israelites. . . 16 Moreover, Manasseh also shed so much innocent bloody that he filled Jerusalem from end to end—besides the sin that he had caused Judah to commit, so that they did evil in the eyes of the Lord.

- 2 Kings 21

4 So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted.

- Habakkuk 1:4

Lessons from Habakkuk for us Today:

- **One:** We need to foster a meaningful prayer life like Habakkuk.
- **Two:** God is working and speaks loudest in our trials
- **Three:** Like Habakkuk, we too must take a stand against the flow.
- **Four:** Habakkuk points us to Christ/Gospel. How to live by faith.

The Gospel in Habakkuk:

In the short-term God fixed the problem of evil in Habakkuk's day with the Babylonians coming against His people. . . but ultimately, God fixed the problem of evil in the person and work of Jesus.