

New Sermon series starting 21 April

HABAKKUK

a minor prophet

12 Are you not from everlasting, O Lord my God, my Holy One?
We shall not die. O Lord, you have ordained them as a judgment,
and you, O Rock, have established them for reproof. 13 You who
are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong, why
do you idly look at traitors and remain silent when the wicked
swallows up the man more righteous than he? 14 You make
mankind like the fish of the sea, like crawling things that have no
ruler. 15 He brings all of them up with a hook; he drags them out
with his net; he gathers them in his dragnet; so he rejoices and is
glad. 16 Therefore he sacrifices to his net and makes offerings to
his dragnet; for by them he lives in luxury, and his food is rich.
17 Is he then to keep on emptying his net and mercilessly killing
nations forever?

2:1 I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower, and look out to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint. 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.

- Habakkuk 1:12-2:4

“God permits what he hates
to accomplish what he
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- Joni Erikson Tada



16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing (accomplishing) for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

“Joni, he cares about your afflictions, but they are merely symptoms of a deeper problem. God cares less about making you comfortable, and more about teaching you to hate your transgressions and to grow up spiritually to love him. In other words, God lets you feel much of sin’s sting through suffering, while you are heading for heaven. And it should constantly remind you of what you are being delivered from.

So, one form of evil, your pain and paralysis, is turned on its head to defeat another form of evil, and that is your bitterness, resentments, anxieties, fears, and I could go on — all to the praise of God’s wisdom. It was becoming clearer. God permitted what he hated on the hill of Calvary to accomplish what he loved — my salvation and his honor in saving me.”

- Joni Erikson Tada,
“Ten Words That Changed Everything About My Suffering”

Main idea:

“God permits what he hates to accomplish what he loves.”

Outline of Message:

- Foundations of thought on Evil
- Exegesis: Habakkuk's Lament
- Application: The Righteous will live by faith/trust

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“In a universe of blind forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, other people are going to get lucky, and you won’t find any rhyme or reason in it, nor any justice.”

-Richard Dawkins,
River Out of Eden: A Darwinian View of Life

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- **Dualist view:** Good and Evil are opposing forces.
- **Redemptive view:** God is sovereign over evil and has a plan

Affirmations Found in Scripture

- God exists ...
- God is good...so he is not the source or origin of evil
- God is all-powerful .. he is sovereign over evil.
- Evil exists

Therefore God must allow evil to exist for a greater and good purpose.

God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, 10 and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

- 2Timothy 1:9-10

Laments – Largest group; more than 60 Psalms!

- Address: vss. 12-13a
- Complaint: vss. 13-17
- Trust/Assurance/Deliverance: 2:1

12 Lord, are you not from everlasting? My God, my Holy One, we 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.

- Habbakkuk 1:12-13

Eight Adjectives in 2 verses!

- Eternal
- Personal
- Holy
- Loyal, Covenant-keeping God
- Just
- Rock
- Sovereign
- Good

Eternal:

Psalm 48:14

For such is God, Our God forever and ever; He will guide us until death.

Isaiah 40:28

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired His understanding is inscrutable.

“My” God: personal

Isaiah 41:10

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Holy

Isaiah 6:3

And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."

Psalms 77:13

Your way, O God, is holy; What god is great like our God?.

Loyal, Covenant-keeping God

Genesis 9:16

"When the rainbow is in the cloud, then I will look upon it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."

Deuteronomy 4:31

"For the LORD your God is a compassionate God; He will not fail you nor destroy you nor forget the covenant with your fathers which He swore to them."

God is Just: Fair

Job 34:12

Of a truth, God will not do wickedly, and the Almighty will not pervert justice.

Deuteronomy 32:4

“The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.

Rock

There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God” -1 Samuel 2:2.

Sovereign-

Habakkuka 1:12: you have ordained them to punish the israelites.

God is good.

Habakkuk 1:13: “your eyes are too pure to look upon evil.”

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- Habakkuk 2:2-3

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- Habakkuk 2:1-4

True, God permits awful things, but (to paraphrase Dorothy Sayers) something so grand and glorious is going to happen in the world's finale that it will more than suffice for every pain we experience on this planet. God will exponentially make up for every tear (Psalm 56:8), and will abundantly reward us for every hurt (Romans 8:18).

- Joni Erikson Tada

God,
grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know
the difference.

Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardship as a pathway to peace; taking, as Jesus did,
this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that You
will make all things right if I surrender to Your will; so that I may
be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with You
forever in the next. -Amen.

-Reinhold Niebuhr