

WHEN GOD DOESN'T MAKE SENSE"
**A SERMON BASED ON THE OLD TESTAMENT
BOOK OF HABAKKUK (1:1-11) AND
PRESENTED FOR ORLEAN UMC ON
AUGUST 23, 2020----- (THE INITIAL MESSAGE IN
A FIVE WEEK SERMON SERIES TITLED
STRONG FAITH FOR CONFUSING TIMES)**

**THE CALL CAME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT----
AS THEY OFTEN DO.....SOMEONE WAS VERY ILL--
---PROBABLY DYING IN FACT AND THE CALLER
WAS DISTRAUGHT ---- UPSET----WORRIED----
DESPERATE-----COULD I PLEASE COME TO THE
HOSPITAL? -----OF COURSE I REPLIED AND AS I
GOT DRESSED TO GO I WONDERED WHAT I
WOULD SAY..... AFTER ALL THIS WAS MY FIRST
OF THESE VISITS AS A PASTOR.....**

**WHEN I ARRIVED EVERYONE WAS MILLING
AROUND IN A STATE OF CONFUSION.....SOME
WERE IN TEARS....EMOTIONS WERE VERY RAW
....A FAMILY MEMBER APPROACHED AND
THROUGH HIS TEARS ASKED ME THE FAMILIAR
QUESTION I HAD SOMEHOW KNOWN WAS
COMING..... *WHY? -----WHY DID GOD LET THIS
HAPPEN TO MY MOM?***

**I HAVE HAD NO SATISFACTORY ANSWER TO
THAT QUESTION, EITHER THEN OR NOW.....**

**WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE QUESTIONS OF LIFE
AND DEATH, AND WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE
PROBLEMS OF THAT FACE US IN THESE TIMES IN
WHICH WE LIVE, EVEN THE MOST FERVENT
BELIEVER LOOKS UP TO THE HEAVENS AND
CRIES OUT:**

WHY? WHY ME? WHY NOW? WHY THIS?

**WHY? THE QUESTION RINGS ACROSS THE
CENTURIES AND THROUGH EVERY GENERATION.
ALL OF US ASK IT SOONER OR LATER. IF YOU
HAVEN'T YET, YOU WILL. IT'S A QUESTION THAT
DOES NOT ADMIT OF AN EASY ANSWER.**

**INDEED, THE GODLIEST BELIEVERS HAVE
SOMETIMES WONDERED ABOUT THE WAYS OF
GOD..... AND IF JOB NEVER GOT A COMPLETE
ANSWER, WHAT CAN YOU AND I EXPECT? AS I
READ THE BIBLE, I DON'T THINK THERE IS ONE
SINGLE ANSWER.**

**WE GET ONE KIND OF ANSWER IN THE BOOK OF
GENESIS, ANOTHER KIND OF ANSWER IN JOB,
AND STILL OTHER ANSWERS IN THE BOOK OF
PSALMS. ECCLESIASTES TAKES YET ANOTHER
APPROACH, AND THE GOSPELS PRESENT US
WITH A CHRIST WHOSE VERY COMING ALTERS
THE WAY WE THINK ABOUT EVERYTHING.**

**FINALLY, THE BOOK OF REVELATION SHOWS US
OUR LORD'S FINAL VICTORY AND THE FINAL
DEFEAT OF EVIL..... I DON'T MEAN TO SUGGEST
THAT THESE VARIOUS PERSPECTIVES
CONTRADICT EACH OTHER. IT'S JUST THAT THE
PROBLEM OF HUMAN SUFFERING IS SO VAST
THAT WE NEED MANY DIFFERENT WAYS TO
THINK ABOUT IT.**

**THAT'S WHERE THE BOOK OF HABAKKUK
COMES IN..... IN THIS FIVE WEEK SERMON SERIES
WE'RE GOING TO DIG DEEP INTO THIS LITTLE
BOOK WRITTEN JUST BEFORE THE WORLD
CAVED IN FOR THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH.**

**IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE TO FIND
HABAKKUK, LOOK IN THE MINOR PROPHETS OF
THE OLD TESTAMENT..... OR JUST LOOK IN THE
“WHITE PAGES” IN THE FRONT OF YOUR BIBLE.
HABAKKUK IS SQUEEZED IN BETWEEN NAHUM
AND ZEPHANIAH, TWO OTHER BOOKS WE
RARELY READ.**

**LET'S BACK UP FOR JUST A SECOND. THERE
ARE 17 PROPHETIC BOOKS IN THE OLD
TESTAMENT, DIVIDED BETWEEN THE MAJOR
PROPHETS (5 BOOKS) AND THE MINOR
PROPHETS (12 BOOKS).**

**THEY ARE NOT CALLED “MAJOR” AND “MINOR”
BECAUSE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE IMPORTANCE
BUT BECAUSE OF THEIR SIZE..... IN ONE OF MY
BIBLES, THE FIVE MAJOR PROPHETS TAKE UP
348 PAGES WHILE THE TWELVE MINOR
PROPHETS TAKE UP ONLY 152 PAGES,
INCLUDING ONLY SEVEN FOR THE ENTIRE BOOK
OF HABAKKUK.**

**SO WE ARE TALKING ABOUT SHORT BOOKS
HERE..... HABAKKUK CONTAINS 56 VERSES
SPREAD OVER ONLY 3 CHAPTERS.**

**HOWEVER....THOUGH HABAKKUK IS A “MINOR”
PROPHET, THERE IS NOTHING MINOR ABOUT HIS
MESSAGE.... HE’S WRITING ABOUT A TOPIC THAT
WE ALL THINK ABOUT EVENTUALLY.**

**HABAKKUK IS UNLIKE THE OTHER PROPHETIC
BOOKS (MAJOR OR MINOR) IN THAT IT RECORDS
A DIALOGUE BETWEEN ONE MAN AND GOD.**

**WHEREAS ISAIAH CONTAINS A MESSAGE FROM
GOD, HABAKKUK RECORDS A CONVERSATION
WITH GOD.**

**IF YOU'VE EVER FELT LIKE YOU HAD A FEW
QUESTIONS FOR GOD, THIS IS THE BOOK FOR
YOU.....ONE COMMENTATOR CALLED HABAKKUK
“THE MAN WITH A QUESTION MARK FOR A
BRAIN.”**

**HERE'S A BIT OF THE BACKGROUND. THE YEAR
IS 605 BC OR THEREABOUTS..... WE CAN'T BE
SURE OF THE PRECISE YEAR BUT THAT'S A
GOOD GUESS..... AFTER GOOD KING JOSIAH
DIED IN 609 BC, THE NATION OF JUDAH PLUNGED
HEADLONG BACK INTO THE CESSPOOL OF
CORRUPTION, IMMORALITY AND IDOLATRY THAT
HAD PLAGUED IT FOR SO MANY GENERATIONS.**

**THIS TIME THE PEOPLE SEEMED HELL-BENT ON
THEIR OWN DESTRUCTION....**

**INSTEAD OF EDGING TOWARD THE CLIFF, THEY
SEEMED DETERMINED TO PLUNGE OVER IT
GOING FULL SPEED. IT WAS AS IF THE NATION
HAD A DEATH WISH AND NO USE FOR GOD AT
ALL.**

**ABOUT THE MAN HABAKKUK WE KNOW ALMOST
NOTHING. WE ASSUME HE WAS AROUND 30
YEARS OLD, BUT THAT IS NOT SOMETHING THAT
WE CAN PROVE.....**

WE DO KNOW THAT HE WAS A CONTEMPORARY OF EZEKIEL AND JEREMIAH AND WOULD HAVE BEEN 10-15 YEARS OLDER THAN DANIEL.

WHEN HE SAW THE TERRIBLE MORAL DECLINE OF JUDAH, HE PRAYED FOR GOD TO “DO SOMETHING.” IN HIS MIND HE NO DOUBT THOUGHT THAT GOD WOULD RAISE UP ANOTHER GOOD KING TO LEAD THE PEOPLE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. LITTLE DID HE KNOW THAT GOD’S ANSWER WOULD COME BY WAY OF THE HATED BABYLONIANS.

**IS THIS ANCIENT BOOK RELEVANT TO US
TODAY.....WELL.....AS I CONSIDER THE SITUATION
BEHIND THE BOOK, THE CONTEXT IN WHICH THIS
PROPHET WRITES.....I AM REMINDED OF THE
FAMOUS WORDS OF THE LATE BILLY GRAHAM,
UTTERED WHEN HE WAS A YOUNG PREACHER:
“IF GOD DOESN’T JUDGE AMERICA, HE’S GOING
TO HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO SODOM AND
GOMORRAH.” IF THOSE WORDS WERE TRUE 65
YEARS AGO, HOW MUCH TRUER MUST THEY BE
TODAY?**

**HABAKKUK LIVED IN CONFUSING TIMES AND
SO DO WE AND THAT'S WHY THIS SERMON
SERIES IS TITLED "STRONG FAITH FOR
CONFUSING TIMES."**

**WE NEED TO SIT WITH HABAKKUK FOR A WHILE
SO WE CAN FIND A FAITH STRONG ENOUGH FOR
OUR OWN TROUBLING TIMES.**

**IN MANY WAYS THIS IS A VERY MODERN BOOK IN
THAT IT RAISES THE QUESTIONS THAT WE
WRESTLE WITH TODAY. A COLLEAGUE ONCE
RECEIVED A NOTE FROM A YOUNG MAN
TROUBLED BY MANY PROBLEMS.....**

**AFTER DESCRIBING HIS PARTICULAR ISSUES,
THE YOUNG MAN FRAMED THE QUESTION THIS
WAY:**

***I AM EXHAUSTED WITH LIFE, AND I WOULD KILL
MYSELF IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE FACT THAT I AM
A COWARD AS WELL AND I DON'T HAVE THE
GUTS TO CARRY IT OUT. I SEE THERAPISTS AND
PSYCHIATRISTS BUT THEY DON'T HELP. THEY
STUFF ME WITH DRUGS AND SEND ME ON MY
WAY. WHY IS GOD SILENT?! WHY DOES HE NOT
ACT?!! WHERE IS MY LORD?!!!***

**WE'VE ALL BEEN THERE, EVEN IF WE WOULDN'T
PUT IT EXACTLY THAT WAY. WHEN UP AGAINST
PROBLEMS FOR WHICH THERE IS NO HUMAN
SOLUTION, WE LOOK TO HEAVEN AND CRY,
"WHY DON'T YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?"**

**AS THE BOOK OPENS, HABAKKUK IS CONFUSED
AND AGITATED. THREE ISSUES HAUNT HIM:**

ISSUE # 1: UNANSWERED PRAYER

**"HOW LONG, LORD, MUST I CALL FOR HELP, BUT
YOU DO NOT LISTEN? OR CRY OUT TO YOU,
'VIOLENCE!' BUT YOU DO NOT SAVE?" (V. 2).**

CONSIDER THE THINGS GOING ON IN THE WORLD

TODAY:

WARFARE

MURDER

CORRUPTION IN HIGH PLACES

SEXUAL PERVERSION

LOOTING

ROBBERY

CRIMES AGAINST OUR CHILDREN

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

RACISM

PANDEMIC

PORNOGRAPHY

**AND CERTAINLY MORE COULD BE ADDED TO
THIS LIST**

**THOSE SAME THINGS WERE HAPPENING IN
HABAKKUK'S DAY IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER.**

**AND AS HE SURVEYS THE EVIL HE SAW ON
EVERY HAND, HE CRIED OUT TO GOD, "HOW CAN
YOU LET THIS GO ON?"**

**SOONER OR LATER WE ALL WONDER ABOUT
GOD'S SEEMING INACTIVITY. WHERE IS GOD
WHEN WE NEED HIM?**

**• A GODLY MOTHER PRAYS FOR HER WAYWARD
SON. HE WAS RAISED IN THE CHURCH, HE WENT
TO SUNDAY SCHOOL, HE KNOWS THE BIBLE—**

**BUT WHEN HE LEFT HOME, HE LEFT IT ALL
BEHIND. FOR MANY YEARS HIS MOTHER HAS
PRAYED FOR HIM, BUT TO THIS DAY HE REMAINS
A PRODIGAL SON.**

- **A WIFE PRAYS FOR HER HUSBAND, WHO LEFT
HER AFTER TWENTY-THREE YEARS OF
MARRIAGE FOR A YOUNGER WOMAN.**

**HE SEEMS UTTERLY UNREACHABLE, AND THE
MARRIAGE HEADS SWIFTLY FOR DIVORCE.**

- **A HUSBAND PRAYS FOR HIS WIFE, WHO HAS
TERMINAL CANCER. SHE HAS SIX, MAYBE SEVEN
MONTHS TO LIVE. NONE OF THE TREATMENTS
STOP THE RAMPAGING TUMORS.**

**THE ELDERS ANOINT HER WITH OIL AND PRAY
OVER HER IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. SHE DIES
FIVE MONTHS LATER.**

- **A YOUNG MAN PRAYS FERVENTLY FOR
DELIVERANCE FROM AN OVERPOWERING
TEMPTATION, BUT THE STRUGGLE NEVER
SEEMS TO END. THE MORE HE PRAYS, THE
WORSE THE TEMPTATION BECOMES.**

**AND SO WE CRY OUT WITH THE PSALMIST,
"WHY, O LORD, DO YOU STAND FAR OFF? WHY
DO YOU HIDE YOURSELF IN TIMES OF
TROUBLE?" (PSALM 10:1).**

**TIMES OF TROUBLE INDEED.....LIKE IN OUR
WORLD TODAYA WORD OF DIVISIVENESS---
ANGER----BITTERNESS---VIOLENCE AND
PANDEMIC.....A WORLD OF WOE!!!**

**WE ARE ENTITLED TO ASK, “LORD, WHERE ARE
YOU? WHY DO YOU NOT DO SOMETHING ABOUT
THIS?”**

ISSUE # 2: UNCONTROLLED PERVERSITY

“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.

THEREFORE THE LAW IS PARALYZED, AND

**JUSTICE NEVER PREVAILS. THE WICKED HEM IN
THE RIGHTEOUS, SO THAT JUSTICE IS
PERVERTED” (VV. 3-4).**

**WHEN LAWLESSNESS PREVAILS, NO ONE IS
SAFE. YOU KNOW WHAT I AM TALKING ABOUT----
YOU READ OR HEAR THE DAILY
NEWS....SHOOTINGS AND VIOLENCE AND DEATH
----DESTRUCTION AND LOOTING AND ON AND ON
YES EVEN TECHNOLOGY IS INVOLVED FOR
TECHNOLOGY IS GOOD WHEN IT IS USED FOR
GOOD PURPOSES, BUT WHEN PUT IN THE HANDS
OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO COMPULSION TO
PRESERVE OR PROTECT.....**

**TECHNOLOGY UNLEASHES UNCONTROLLED
PERVERSITY IN THE WORLD.**

ISSUE # 3: UNEXPECTED ANSWER

**HABAKKUK FACES HIS THIRD ISSUE WHEN GOD
GIVES HIM AN ANSWER HE DOESN'T EXPECT.**

**“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” (V. 5).**

TAKEN BY ITSELF, THOSE WORDS MIGHT LEAD HABAKKUK TO THINK THAT GOD IS GOING TO SEND A MIGHTY SPIRITUAL AWAKENING TO JUDAH, A REVIVAL THAT WILL RID THE NATION OF IDOLATRY AND BRING THEM BACK TO GOD. SOMETIMES PREACHERS USE THIS VERSE AS A BASIS FOR PRAYING FOR REVIVAL IN OUR DAY. WHILE I CERTAINLY THINK WE OUGHT TO PRAY FOR REVIVAL, THAT'S NOT WHAT THIS VERSE IS ALL ABOUT..... GOD IS GOING TO SEND SOMETHING FOR SURE----- BUT IT'S NOT A REVIVAL.

“I AM RAISING UP THE BABYLONIANS, THAT RUTHLESS AND IMPETUOUS PEOPLE, WHO SWEEP ACROSS THE WHOLE EARTH” (V. 6).

NOTHING GOD SAID COULD HAVE SURPRISED HABAKKUK MORE THAN THIS. HE KNEW ABOUT THE BABYLONIANS.

EVERYBODY KNEW THE BABYLONIANS.

THEY WERE THE MOST HATED---THE MOST DESPISED -----AND THE MOST FEARED NATION ON EARTH. UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR, THEIR ARMIES PLUNDERED THE NATIONS AROUND THEM.

NO ONE COULD STAND AGAINST THEM.

NO ONE COULD DEFEAT THEM.

**THEY WERE CRUEL, VICIOUS, RAPACIOUS IN
THEIR APPETITE FOR DESTRUCTION..... IF THEY
WANTED A CITY, THEY TOOK A CITY..... IF THEY
WANTED A PROVINCE, THEY TOOK A
PROVINCE..... IF THEY WANTED A NATION, THEY
TOOK THAT NATION.**

**IT IS HARD FOR US TO FULLY UNDERSTAND HOW
THE JEWS FELT ABOUT THE BABYLONIANS.
THEY SWEEP ACROSS THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST
WITH A CRUELTY HITHERTO UNKNOWN.**

***THESE ARE NASTY PEOPLE, AND GOD KNOWS
HOW BAD THEY ARE***

**LOOK AT HOW GOD DESCRIBES THEM IN THE
NEXT FEW VERSES:**

RUTHLESS AND IMPETUOUS (V. 6)

FEARED AND DREADED (V. 7)

LAW TO THEMSELVES (V. 7)

**THEY ARE SWIFT AS LEOPARDS, RAVENOUS AS
WOLVES, AND THEY SWOOP ON THEIR PREY
LIKE EAGLES DROPPING FROM THE SKY.**

THEY GATHER PRISONERS LIKE SAND.

THEY MOCK KINGS.

THEY LAUGH AT FORTIFIED CITIES.

THEY NEVER STOP.

HERE IS GOD'S ULTIMATE INDICTMENT OF THEM:

“WHOSE STRENGTH IS THEIR GOD” (V. 11).

THE POINT IS, THESE ARE NASTY PEOPLE, AND GOD KNOWS HOW BAD THEY ARE. IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S RAISING UP THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR TO JUDGE JUDAH. HE'S NOT CALLING ON THE BOY SCOUTS TO DO THE JOB. WHEN GOD DECIDES TO JUDGE JUDAH, HE PICKS THE MEANEST NATION ON THE BLOCK TO DO THE JOB FOR HIM.

NOTHING ABOUT ANY OF THIS MADE SENSE TO HABAKKUK.....NOTHING AT ALL!

IT'S AS IF GOD SAID, "I'M GOING TO RAISE UP AL QAEDA OR NORTH KOREA OR THE TALIBAN TO JUDGE AMERICA..... BECAUSE YOU DID NOT RESPECT MY LAW, YOU WILL NOW LIVE UNDER SOMEONE ELSE'S LAW."

AS SHOCKING AS THAT SOUNDS TO US, THAT'S EXACTLY HOW GOD'S MESSAGE SOUNDED TO HABAKKUK. HE COULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT HE HAD JUST HEARD.

VERY OFTEN IN THE BIBLE, THINGS HAD TO GET WORSE BEFORE THEY COULD GET BETTER. I WONDER SOMETIMES WHETHER WE HAVE REACHED THAT POINT IN OUR COUNTRY-----IN OUR UNITED STATES?

WHAT IF GOD ALLOWS THIS FOR A PURPOSE?

WHAT IF THESE THINGS MUST HAPPEN?

MANY PEOPLE SAY THAT WE NEED A REVIVAL IN AMERICA. I CERTAINLY AGREE WITH THAT. I ALSO HEAR SOME PEOPLE SAY THAT WE ARE ON THE BRINK OF A GREAT MOVEMENT BACK TO GOD. I DON'T KNOW IF THAT IS TRUE OR NOT.

**I CERTAINLY HOPE IT IS.....AND WE CAN PRAY
AND WORK TO THAT END.**

**BUT WHY HAVE WE AS A NATION TURNED AWAY
FROM THE TRUTH? WE HAVE WE TURNED TO
OTHER GOD'STO THOSE THINGS THAT OUR
CULTURE TIRELESSLY TELLS US ARE THE MOST
IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE....THINGS THAT WE
SIMPLY MUST HAVE!!-----WHY ARE OUR CHURCH
PEWS EMPTY ON A SUNDAY MORNING AND YET
OUR SOCCER FIELDS ARE FULL???**

**WHY HAS BIBLE LITERACY IN OUR COUNTRY
BECOME A THING OF THE PAST.....A THING OF
ANOTHER TIME?**

**I THINK THE ANSWER IS CLEAR. AS A NATION,
WE DON'T NEED GOD. WE'RE DOING FINE
WITHOUT HIM, OR SO WE THINK.**

**I REMEMBER VERY CLEARLY HOW ON THE
SUNDAY AFTER 9/11, THE CHURCHES WERE
CROWDED WITH PEOPLE..... MILLIONS OF
AMERICANS RESPONDED TO THE TERRORIST
ATTACKS BY COMING TO A HOUSE OF WORSHIP.
BUT SOON THAT POST-CRISIS ATTENDANCE
BUMP DISAPPEARED..... AFTER A FEW WEEKS,
THINGS RETURNED MORE OR LESS TO WHAT
HAD BECOME "NORMAL."**

**WE TURNED TOWARD GOD BUT WE DIDN'T TURN
TO HIM. THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE. WE
TURNED IN HIS DIRECTION...BUT IT WAS BRIEF
.....TURNING TOWARD GOD IS GOOD BUT IT
NEVER LASTS..... ONLY TURNING TO GOD CAN
CHANGE A NATION.**

**I TOLD YOU EARLIER THAT THIS SERIES IS
CALLED "STRONG FAITH FOR CONFUSING
TIMES." EVERYONE READING THESE WORDS IS
IN ONE OF THREE PLACES:**

YOU'RE IN CONFUSING TIMES.

YOU'RE COMING OUT OF CONFUSING TIMES.

**OR YOU'RE ABOUT TO GO INTO CONFUSING
TIMES (AND YOU JUST DON'T KNOW IT YET).**

**I'M HOPING YOU'LL TAKE THIS SERIES ON
HABAKKUK AND PUT IT IN YOUR BACK POCKET.
KEEP IT CLOSE BY SO YOU CAN GET TO IT WHEN
YOU NEED IT..... IF YOU DON'T NEED IT TODAY,
YOU'LL NEED IT TOMORROW OR THE DAY AFTER
TOMORROW.....OR THE DAY AFTER THAT
THREE IMPORTANT INSIGHTS**

LET'S WRAP THINGS UP WITH THREE IMPORTANT INSIGHTS.

1. WE SEE ONLY A PART OF THE PICTURE.

WHEN IT COMES TO UNDERSTANDING WHAT GOD IS DOING IN THE WORLD, WE ARE LIKE ANTS ON A REMBRANDT. WE CRAWL ACROSS THE DARK BROWN AND THINK ALL OF LIFE IS DARK BROWN. THEN WE HIT GREEN AND THINK, "OH, THIS IS BETTER. NOW ALL IS GREEN." BUT SOON COMES THE DARK BLUE AND THEN A SPLASH OF YELLOW, A STREAK OF RED, AND THEN ANOTHER PATCH OF BROWN.

ON WE JOURNEY, FROM ONE COLOR TO ANOTHER, NEVER REALIZING THAT GOD IS ACTUALLY PAINTING A MASTERPIECE IN OUR LIVES USING ALL THE COLORS OF THE PALETTE. ONE DAY WE WILL DISCOVER THAT EVERY COLOR HAD ITS PLACE, HAD A REASON, NOTHING WAS WASTED OR OUT OF PLACE. JUST AS THERE IS A TIME AND A SEASON FOR EVERYTHING, THERE IS ALSO A COLOR FOR EVERY STAGE OF LIFE'S JOURNEY. WHEN THE PAINTING IS FINISHED, WE WILL DISCOVER THAT WE WERE PART OF HIS MASTERPIECE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

2. GOD ISN'T LIMITED TO WHAT WE THINK HE OUGHT TO DO.

WE CONTINUALLY MAKE THE MISTAKE OF THINKING THAT OUR PLANS AND GOD'S PLANS ARE THE SAME PLANS. THEY AREN'T. SOME WISE PERSON SAID IT THIS WAY: "WRITE YOUR PLANS IN PENCIL AND GIVE GOD THE ERASER."

IF YOUR GOD ALWAYS DOES WHAT YOU WANT, HE'S PROBABLY NOT THE GOD OF THE BIBLE.

3. WE NEED A BIGGER GOD.

HABAKKUK WAS CONFUSED AND DISTRAUGHT BECAUSE HE THOUGHT HE KNEW WHAT GOD SHOULD DO.

**BUT HE WAS ACTUALLY WRONG TWICE..... FIRST
WHEN HE THOUGHT GOD WAS IGNORING
JUDAH'S SIN AND SECOND WHEN HE COULDN'T
BELIEVE GOD WOULD USE THE BABYLONIANS
TO JUDGE HIS OWN PEOPLE.**

**WE NEED A GOD WHO IS BIGGER THAN OUR
PUNY IDEAS.**

**WE NEED A GOD WHOSE WAYS CONTINUALLY
SURPRISE US.**

SO.....HOW BIG IS YOUR GOD?

**YOU'D BETTER FIGURE OUT THE ANSWER
BEFORE THE HARD TIMES COME.**

CLEAR EYES.

FULL HEART.

NO FEAR.

GOD IS GOOD.

**MAYBE WE SHOULD STOP RIGHT NOW AND SAY
THAT OUT LOUD..... MAYBE EVEN WRITE IT DOWN
AND PUT IT WHERE YOU CAN SEE IT THIS WEEK.**

**IT'S A GREAT REMINDER THAT OUR CONFUSION
CAN'T CANCEL GOD'S GOODNESS EVEN WHEN
LIFE ITSELF MAKES NO SENSE.**

**PRAISE GOD AND MAY IT BE SO FOR YOU AND
FOR ME.....AMEN**