

“QUESTIONS FOR GOD”

**A SERMON BASED ON THE OLD TESTAMENT
BOOK OF HABAKKUK (1:12-2:4) AND
PRESENTED FOR ORLEAN UMC ON
AUGUST 30, 2020----- (THE SECOND MESSAGE
IN A FIVE WEEK SERMON SERIES TITLED
STRONG FAITH FOR CONFUSING TIMES)**

**WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU’VE PRAYED TO
GOD AND YOU DON’T LIKE THE ANSWER YOU’VE
RECEIVED?**

***YOU APPLIED FOR THE COLLEGE OF YOUR
DREAMS, BUT THEY SAID NO.**

***YOU INTERVIEWED FOR A NEW JOB, BUT THEY
FOUND SOMEONE MORE QUALIFIED.**

***YOU ASKED GOD FOR HEALING, BUT THE
DOCTOR SAYS THE CHEMO DIDN’T WORK.**

***YOU PRAYED AND PRAYED TO FIND A HUSBAND, AND AFTER ALL THESE YEARS HE HAS NOT YET FOUND YOU.**

***YOU ASKED HER TO MARRY YOU, AND SHE SAID NO.**

***YOU SUNK YOUR LIFE SAVINGS INTO A NEW BUSINESS ONLY TO SEE IT FAIL WITHIN A YEAR.**

***YOU MOVED ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO TAKE A NEW JOB, BUT IT DIDN'T WORK OUT, AND NOW YOU ARE UNEMPLOYED—AGAIN.**

***YOU NEVER INTENDED TO END UP DIVORCED, BUT HERE YOU ARE.**

***YOU PLANNED ON HAVING MORE CHILDREN, BUT IT ISN'T HAPPENING FOR SOME REASON.**

***YOU VOLUNTEERED TO SERVE ON THE
WORSHIP TEAM. THEY SAID THEY'D GET BACK
TO YOU. EVIDENTLY THEY LOST YOUR NUMBER.**

**WE'VE ALL BEEN THERE---- MOST OF US MANY
TIMES ----BECAUSE THAT'S THE WAY LIFE IS.
YOU HAVE YOUR DREAMS, YOU MAKE YOUR
PLANS, YOU SINCERELY SEEK TO DO GOD'S
WILL, YOU PRAY TO THE LORD, AND WHEN THE
ANSWER COMES, IT'S NOT WHAT YOU WANTED.
WHAT DO YOU DO THEN? WE DON'T TALK
ABOUT THIS VERY OFTEN BUT WE SHOULD.**

**LIVE LONG ENOUGH AND YOU'LL DISCOVER
THAT GOD'S PLAN AND YOURS OFTEN ARE NOT
THE SAME..... WE ALL KNOW THAT WE SHOULD
PRAY "YOUR WILL BE DONE," AND MOST OF US
DO, BUT IT STILL JOLTS THE SPIRIT WHEN WE
DISCOVER THAT GOD HAS A COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT PLAN IN MIND.**

THAT'S HABAKKUK.

HE DOESN'T LIKE THE ANSWER HE RECEIVED.

**FIRST, HE THOUGHT GOD WAS IGNORING
JUDAH'S SIN.**

**SECOND, HE THOUGHT GOD WOULD NEVER USE
BABYLON TO JUDGE JUDAH.**

WRONG BOTH TIMES.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN GOD DOESN'T LIVE UP TO YOUR EXPECTATIONS? HOW DO YOU RESPOND WHEN THE LORD'S ANSWER ISN'T WHAT YOU WANTED?

HABAKKUK WAS TROUBLED BY SOMETHING THAT TROUBLES ALL OF US. HE COULDN'T RECONCILE HIS VIEW OF GOD WITH THE INJUSTICE HE SAW ALL AROUND HIM. SEVERAL YEARS AGO POLLSTER GEORGE BARNA ASKED AMERICANS THIS QUESTION: "IF YOU COULD ASK GOD ONE QUESTION AND KNOW THAT YOU WOULD RECEIVE AN ANSWER, WHAT WOULD YOU ASK?" BY FAR THE NUMBER ONE RESPONSE WAS: "WHY IS THERE PAIN AND SUFFERING IN THE WORLD?"

**THAT'S MAKES SENSE BECAUSE WE SEE
SUFFERING ON EVERY HAND, AND WE WONDER
WHERE IT COMES FROM AND WHY GOD ALLOWS
IT. C. S. LEWIS REMARKED THAT THE PROBLEM
OF SUFFERING IS ATHEISM'S GREATEST
WEAPON AGAINST THE CHRISTIAN FAITH.**

**WHY ARE WE SHOOTING ONE ANOTHER IN OUR
STREETS**

**WHY DID THE TORNADO LAND HERE AND NOT
THERE?-----OR WHY IS THE HURRICANE HEADED
TOWARD OUR TOWN OR YOURS.....**

**WHY WAS THIS CHILD KIDNAPPED AND THAT
ONE ESCAPED?**

WHY WOULD GOD ALLOW A CHILD TO BE BORN WITH A DISABILITY?

WHY ARE CHRISTIANS BEING KILLED DAILY IN PARTS OF OUR WORLD SOLELY BECAUSE OF THEIR FAITH

THE LIST OF QUESTIONS SEEMS ENDLESS. IN MY FIRST MESSAGE FROM HABAKKUK I TALKED A LOT ABOUT THE WORLD SITUATION, BOTH IN HABAKKUK'S DAY AND IN OUR OWN DAY. THAT WAS NECESSARY TO SET UP THIS SERIES CALLED "STRONG FAITH IN CONFUSING TIMES." IN THIS MESSAGE WE MOVE TO A DEEPER LEVEL.

**WHEN WE CONSIDER THE SADNESS WE SEE ALL
AROUND US, WE CAN SIT AROUND AND OFFER
ALL THE COMMENTARY WE WANT.**

**BUT AT SOME POINT WE'VE GOT TO DEAL WITH
GOD. AND THAT BRINGS US BACK TO THE LITTLE
BOOK OF HABAKKUK. WRITTEN IN
APPROXIMATELY 605 B.C., THIS IS THE STORY OF
ONE MAN WHO WRESTLED WITH GOD ABOUT
THE HARD QUESTIONS. IN THREE SHORT
CHAPTERS HE BRINGS US FACE TO FACE WITH
THE DEEPEST MYSTERIES OF LIFE.**

IT ALL BOILS DOWN TO THIS ONE FACT. “*THE BABYLONIANS ARE COMING, AND YOU CAN’T STOP THEM..... WHEN THEY REACH JERUSALEM, THEY WILL CONQUER IT AND EVENTUALLY THEY WILL DESTROY IT. I AM USING THEM TO JUDGE JUDAH FOR HER SINS.*”

WHEN HABAKKUK HEARD THIS, HE OBJECTED VEHEMENTLY: “GOD, HOW CAN YOU DO THIS?” THAT’S THE KEY TO THE BOOK. IT’S A DIALOGUE BETWEEN A FRUSTRATED MAN OF FAITH AND A GOD WHOSE WAYS HE CANNOT UNDERSTAND.

WE CAN FRAME THE BOOK THIS WAY:

THE ISSUE IS NOT JUDAH AND HER SIN.

THE ISSUE IS NOT BABYLON AND ITS EVIL.

THE ISSUE IS NOT HABAKKUK'S DOUBTS.

THE ISSUE IS GOD.

**WE ALL END UP THERE EVENTUALLY. ALL OUR
QUESTIONS LEAD BACK TO GOD BECAUSE HE IS
THE ONE WITH WHOM WE HAVE TO DEAL.**

**IN THE LAST HALF OF HABAKKUK 1 THE
PROPHET HAS THREE QUESTIONS FOR GOD.
AFTER ASKING THOSE QUESTIONS, HE WILL
MAKE A DECISION THAT SHAPES EVERYTHING
ELSE IN THE BOOK.**

QUESTION # 1: WHO ARE YOU?

**“O LORD, ARE YOU NOT FROM EVERLASTING?
MY GOD, MY HOLY ONE, WE WILL NOT DIE. O
LORD, YOU HAVE APPOINTED THEM TO EXECUTE
JUDGMENT; O ROCK, YOU HAVE ORDAINED
THEM TO PUNISH” (V. 12).**

**SO.....WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN GOD MAKES NO
SENSE? EITHER YOU WALK AWAY FROM YOUR
FAITH OR YOU REMIND YOURSELF OF WHO GOD
IS. SOMETIMES WHAT WE NEED IS A GOOD
DOSE OF THEOLOGY TO STRENGTHEN OUR
FALTERING FAITH.**

**WHEN FACED WITH THE NEWS THAT THE HATED
BABYLONIANS WOULD SOON INVADE JUDAH
AND NOTHING COULD STOP THEM, HABAKKUK
GOES BACK TO WHAT THE THEOLOGIANS CALL
THE “FIRST PRINCIPLES.”**

LOOK WHAT HE CALLS GOD:

EVERLASTING—YOU ARE SOVEREIGN.

**LORD—YOU ARE THE PERSONAL GOD OF
ISRAEL.**

**GOD—YOU ARE THE STRONG ONE, THE
CREATOR, THE MAJESTIC RULER.**

**HOLY—YOU ARE IN A CLASS BY YOURSELF AND
SET APART FROM SIN.**

ROCK—YOU ARE THE ONLY SAFE PLACE.

THESE ARE NOT SMALL POINTS. AS HABAKKUK TRIES TO GET HIS MIND AROUND THE SHOCKING TRUTH THAT GOD IS ABOUT TO USE BABYLON TO JUDGE JUDAH, HE GOES BACK TO WHAT HE KNOWS TO BE TRUE ABOUT GOD. THIS IS A VITAL FIRST STEP FOR ALL OF US.

CONSIDER IT THIS WAY:

IF YOU REMOVE GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY, YOU WILL FOREVER QUESTION HIS WISDOM.

IF YOU REMOVE GOD'S LOYAL LOVE, YOU WILL FOREVER QUESTION HIS FAITHFULNESS.

IF YOU REMOVE GOD'S MAJESTY, YOU WILL FOREVER QUESTION HIS POWER.

**IF YOU REMOVE GOD'S HOLINESS, YOU WILL
FOREVER QUESTION HIS FAIRNESS.**

**IF YOU REMOVE GOD'S PROTECTION, YOU'LL
FOREVER QUESTION HIS GOODNESS.**

**YOU MIGHT ASK I CAN I BE SO CONFIDENT WITH
MY ANSWERS. THAT'S A FAIR QUESTION..... I
TOLD HIM THAT I FIRST CAME FACE-TO-FACE
WITH THE UNANSWERABLE QUESTIONS OF LIFE
WHEN A CLASSMATE AND FRIEND OF MINE AND
HIS OLDER SISTER--- A CLASSMATE OF MY
SISTER --- BOTH LOST THEIR LIVES IN A CAR
ACCIDENT.....I HAD BEEN INVITED TO
ACCOMPANY THEM ON THEIR JOURNEY TO
ANOTHER TOWN IN INDIANA FOR SOME SORT OF**

**EVENT-----BUT MY MOTHER HAD NOT ALLOWED
ME TO GO.....A PREMNIION OF
HERS???....PERHAPS.....THE TRUTH IS THAT I DO
NOT KNOW WHY SHE WOULD NOT LET ME
GO.....WE NEVER DISCUSSED IT.....**

**AS I WRITE THESE WORDS, NEARLY SIXTY
YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THAT DREADFUL
DAY..... AS I REFLECT ON MY LIFE, I REALIZE
THAT I HAVE LEARNED A GREAT DEAL IN THE
NEARLY SIX DECADES SINCE THEN. I THINK I
HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF GOD NOW.**

**BUT IF I AM BEING HONEST, I CAN SAY THAT I
DON'T KNOW ANYTHING MORE ABOUT WHY MY
FRIEND AND HIS SISTER DIED THAT DAY AND
WHAT AND WHY WAS I NOT IN THAT CAR WITH
THEM.....WHAT PLAN DID GOD HAVE FOR ME???
WHY DID THESE WONDERFUL YOUNG PEOPLE
DIE THAT DAY???**WHY WAS THEIR FAMILY SO
DECIMATED THAT THEY WERE NEVER--- EVER----
THE SAME

**IT WAS A MYSTERY THEN AND IT REMAINS A
MYSTERY NOW. IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY MORE
SENSE TO ME NOW THAN IT DID THEN.**

**BUT I HAVE LEARNED THAT FAITH IS A CHOICE
YOU MAKE. SOMETIMES YOU CHOOSE TO
BELIEVE BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU SEE; OFTEN
YOU BELIEVE IN SPITE OF WHAT YOU SEE.**

**AS I LOOK TO THE WORLD AROUND ME, MANY
THINGS REMAIN MYSTERIOUS AND
UNANSWERABLE..... BUT IF THERE IS NO GOD,
OR IF HE IS NOT GOOD, THEN NOTHING AT ALL
MAKES SENSE. I HAVE CHOSEN TO BELIEVE
BECAUSE I MUST BELIEVE. I TRULY HAVE NO
OTHER CHOICE.**

**IF I SOUND CONFIDENT, IT IS ONLY BECAUSE I
HAVE LEARNED THROUGH MY TEARS THAT MY
ONLY CONFIDENCE IS IN GOD AND GOD ALONE
I HAVE TRIED TO DO IN MY OWN WAY WHAT
HABAKKUK IS THIS VERSE. TIME AND AGAIN
WHEN FACED WITH MYSTERIES I CANNOT
EXPLAIN, I GO BACK TO THE FIRST PRINCIPLES
OF LIFE:**

GOD IS GOOD.

GOD IS HOLY.

GOD IS JUST.

GOD KNOWS ALL THINGS.

GOD IS LOVE.

GOD MAKES NO MISTAKES.

THE BIBLE IS TRUE.

JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD.

**JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS AND ROSE FROM
THE DEAD.**

HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN.

SOMEDAY HE WILL RETURN TO THE EARTH.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS REAL.

I AM SEALED WITH THE SPIRIT.

GOD IS ALWAYS WITH ME.

**ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR MY GOOD
AND GOD'S GLORY.**

GOD WILL COMPLETE HIS WORK IN ME.

**JUST WRITING THOSE SENTENCES BROUGHT
FAITH TO MY HEART. THAT'S WHAT I MEAN BY
GOING BACK TO THE FIRST PRINCIPLES.**

THAT LEADS US TO THE SECOND QUESTION.

QUESTION # 2. HOW CAN YOU DO THIS?

**“YOUR EYES ARE TOO PURE TO LOOK ON EVIL;
YOU CANNOT TOLERATE WRONG. WHY THEN DO
YOU TOLERATE THE TREACHEROUS? WHY ARE
YOU SILENT WHILE THE WICKED SWALLOW UP
THOSE MORE RIGHTEOUS THAN THEMSELVES?”**

(V. 13)

**HERE WE REACH THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM.
WE ALL UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE MORAL
INEQUITIES IN THE UNIVERSE. I DON'T SEE ANY
WAY TO DENY THAT OBSERVATION. WHILE WE
SAY COMMONLY SAY THAT INTO EACH LIFE
SOME RAIN MUST FALL, IT SEEMS LIKE SOME
PEOPLE GET A SPRINKLE WHILE OTHERS LIVE
WITH A TORRENTIAL DOWNPOUR OF TROUBLE.
HOW DO WE EXPLAIN THIS?**

HABAKKUK'S PARTICULAR PROBLEM STEMMED FROM A SEEMING CONFLICT IN GOD. IF GOD CANNOT TOLERATE WRONGDOING (A TRUE POINT), HOW THEN COULD HE USE THE BABYLONIANS TO JUDGE JUDAH (ALSO A TRUE POINT)? BABYLON'S SINS WERE FAR GREATER THAN THE SINS OF JUDAH.

IS THIS NOT A CONTRADICTION? THE ANSWER IS NO. THERE ARE NO CONTRADICTIONS WITH GOD---- BUT IT IS TRUE THAT HE DOES THINGS THAT SEEM TO US TO BE INCONSISTENT. THE KEY HERE IS THE LITTLE PHRASE "SEEM TO US." GOD'S WAYS WILL NOT ALWAYS MAKE SENSE TO US, NOT EVEN WHEN THEY ARE VIEWED WITH THE EYES OF FAITH.

PERHAPS A BETTER WAY TO PUT IT WOULD BE
THAT IN THE SHORT RUN (WHICH IS ALL OF LIFE
FOR ALL OF US), GOD'S WAYS WILL SOMETIMES
NOT MAKE SENSE TO US.

WE SIMPLY DON'T KNOW WHY THINGS HAPPEN
THE WAY THEY DO.

SOMETIMES WE FIND OUT LATER.

SOMETIMES WE WILL NOT KNOW UNTIL WE GET
TO HEAVEN.

EVERY THOUGHTFUL PERSON WRESTLES WITH
THIS AT SOME POINT.

**EVENTUALLY WE ARE FORCED BACK ON THE
FIRST LAW OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE: GOD IS GOD
AND WE'RE NOT. GOD IS SOVEREIGN AND WE
ARE NOT. EVERY MISTAKE WE MAKE COMES
BECAUSE WE FORGET THIS BASIC FACT..... IT'S
GOOD FOR ALL OF US TO REMEMBER PSALM
115:3, "OUR GOD IS IN HEAVEN; HE DOES
WHATEVER PLEASES HIM."**

**AT THIS POINT, GOD HAS NOT YET ANSWERED
HABAKKUK'S QUESTION. THAT WILL COME IN
THE NEXT CHAPTER.**

FOR THE MOMENT, LET ME SIMPLY NOTE THAT ANY ANSWER MUST GO BACK TO THE TRUTH THAT GOD IS GOD AND WE ARE NOT. UNTIL WE GRASP THAT, WE WILL CONTINUALLY STRUGGLE WITH THE LORD.

QUESTION # 3. HOW LONG WILL THIS LAST?

“IS HE TO KEEP ON EMPTYING HIS NET, DESTROYING NATIONS WITHOUT MERCY?” (V. 17)

THE “HE” IN THIS VERSE REFERS TO THE WHOLE BABYLONIAN ARMY (PERSONIFIED BY KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR) AS ONE PERSON. HE KEEPS ON CONQUERING ONE NATION AFTER ANOTHER, AND NO ONE CAN STOP HIM. IF HE SEES A CITY, HE TAKES IT.

IF HE WANTS WHAT YOU HAVE, HE TAKES IT. IF HE CAPTURES YOU, HE WILL PROBABLY KILL YOU. TO HIM MEN ARE LIKE FISH, AND HE'S GOT THE NET. HE KEEPS REELING IN ONE NATION AFTER ANOTHER.

GUESS WHO HE'S FISHING FOR NOW?

JUDAH!

IN THE FACE OF THIS CRUSHING EVIL, HABAKKUK WONDERS WHEN IT WILL ALL END. WILL NO ONE STOP BABYLON? WILL HIS REIGN OF TERROR GO ON FOREVER? WHO CAN STAND IN HIS WAY?

**THIS TOUCHES THE DEEPEST QUESTION WE
HAVE WHEN LIFE CRUMBLES IN AROUND US:
HOW LONG WILL THIS LAST? MOST PEOPLE CAN
STAND UP UNDER TROUBLE IF THEY KNOW IT
WILL EVENTUALLY COME TO AN END. BUT IF IT
NEVER ENDS, HOW WILL WE SURVIVE?**

**SO THERE YOU HAVE HABAKKUK'S THREE
QUESTIONS:**

***WHO ARE YOU, LORD? TO WHICH HABAKKUK
SUPPLIES HIS OWN ANSWER.***

***HOW CAN YOU DO THIS? FOR WHICH NO
ANSWER IS GIVEN.***

***HOW LONG WILL THIS LAST? FOR WHICH NO
ANSWER IS GIVEN.***

**SOME QUESTIONS WILL NOT BE ANSWERED THIS
SIDE OF HEAVEN**

**THESE ARE ALL HONEST QUESTIONS, THE KIND
WE ALL ASK IN TIMES OF TROUBLE. WE SHOULD
NOTE THAT HABAKKUK IS AN UTTERLY HONEST
MAN WHO, WHEN HE HAS DOUBTS, DOES NOT
HESITATE TO TELL THEM TO THE LORD. HE
DOESN'T COVER UP HIS DOUBTS WITH PIOUS
SAYINGS NOR DOES HE RUSH TO GIVE GLIB
ANSWERS.**

**HE ANSWERS THE ONLY QUESTION HE CAN
ANSWER, AND HE WAITS FOR GOD TO ANSWER
THE OTHER TWO.**

**HE'S CONFIDENT IN GOD BUT CONFUSED BY
WHAT GOD IS DOING IN THE WORLD. HE'S A
BELIEVING MAN WITH SERIOUS QUESTIONS HE
CAN'T ANSWER.**

**WHAT NOW? HABAKKUK TELLS US WHAT HE
DECIDED TO DO:**

***“I WILL STAND AT MY WATCH AND STATION
MYSELF ON THE RAMPARTS.”***

**SOME TRANSLATIONS USE THE PHRASE
“WATCHTOWER” OR “GUARD POST.” IT
DESCRIBES SOME SORT OF WOODEN TOWER
THAT THE PROPHET BUILT.**

THERE, ALONE, HE WOULD WATCH AND WAIT FOR GOD'S ANSWER TO COME. HABAKKUK DID NOT KNOW HOW THE LORD WOULD ANSWER OR HOW LONG HE WOULD HAVE TO WAIT. HE JUST KNEW THAT HAVING SAID ALL THAT WAS ON HIS HEART, NOW IT WAS TIME TO WAIT ON THE LORD.

REMEMBER, HE STILL DOESN'T UNDERSTAND HOW GOD CAN USE THE WICKED BABYLONIANS TO JUDGE JUDAH FOR HER SINS. IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO HIM.

WE DON'T KNOW HOW LONG HE WAITED, ONLY THAT AT LENGTH GOD ANSWERED HIM.....ONE COMMENTATOR OFFERS THIS OBSERVATION:

“PEOPLE SAY THAT GOD DOES NOT SPEAK TO MEN AS HE DID LONG AGO. THE TRUER STATEMENT IS THAT MEN DO NOT LISTEN TODAY AS THEY DID LONG AGO.”

AT SOME POINT YOU HAVE TO STOP TALKING ABOUT YOUR PROBLEMS. BUT NO ONE WANTS TO DO THAT. WE WANT TO TALK, WE NEED TO TALK, AND TALKING IS OFTEN BENEFICIAL. WE ALL NEED FRIENDS WHO WILL LISTEN TO US IN OUR AGONY.

**BUT SOME CHRISTIANS CAN'T GET BETTER
BECAUSE THEY WON'T STOP TALKING. PERHAPS
YOU OBJECT AND SAY, "NO, I'M GOING TO TELL
FACEBOOK ALL MY PROBLEMS!" BUT THAT'S
NOT NECESSARILY A GOOD IDEA.....IS IT??**

**AS WE COME TO THE END OF THIS MESSAGE, WE
HAVE ALREADY REACHED A TURNING POINT IN
THIS LITTLE BOOK. HAVING LAID OUT HIS
COMPLAINTS BEFORE THE LORD, HABAKKUK
NOW WAITS FOR AN ANSWER. WHILE HE'S
HONEST ABOUT HIS COMPLAINTS, HE'S ALSO
WISE ENOUGH TO TAKE THEM TO THE LORD AND
LEAVE THEM THERE.**

THAT LEADS ME TO AN IMPORTANT POINT. OUR DEEPEST PROBLEMS ARE NOT PSYCHOLOGICAL OR SOCIOLOGICAL AND THEY ARE CERTAINLY NOT POLITICAL ALTHOUGH SOME WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE OTHERWISE..... OUR DEEPEST PROBLEMS ARE ALWAYS THEOLOGICAL.

CAN GOD BE TRUSTED?

WHAT KIND OF GOD DO WE BELIEVE IN ?

AS I WAS PONDERING THAT QUESTION, TWO SENTENCES CAME TO ME:

HE'S NOT THE GOD WE THINK HE IS.

HE'S MUCH BETTER THAN THAT.

THAT'S NOT ONLY TRUE, THAT'S A HUGE TRUTH.

**I CHOSE THE WORD "BETTER" BECAUSE IT SUMS
UP ALL I AM TRYING TO SAY IN THIS MESSAGE.**

**NOT ONLY IS GOD FAR BEYOND US, MUCH
VASTER THAN OUR PUNY MINDS CAN CONCEIVE,
HE'S MUCH BETTER THAN WE HAVE IMAGINED.**

GOD'S WAYS ARE BETTER.

GOD'S HEART IS BETTER.

GOD'S THOUGHTS ARE BETTER.

GOD'S PLAN IS BETTER.

**ALL THAT GOD IS AND ALL THAT GOD DOES IS
BETTER.**

**BECAUSE THAT IS TRUE, WE SHOULDN'T BE
SURPRISED THAT WE CONTINUALLY RUN INTO
THE PROBLEM OF NOT UNDERSTANDING HIM.
AND IT SHOULDN'T SURPRISE US WHEN HIS
ANSWERS DON'T ALWAYS LINE UP WITH OUR
DESIRES.**

**WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU'VE PRAYED TO
GOD AND YOU DON'T LIKE THE ANSWER YOU'VE
RECEIVED? THAT HAPPENS TO ALL OF US
SOONER OR LATER. SO-----WHAT DO YOU DO
WHEN YOU DON'T LIKE GOD'S ANSWER?**

***YOU CAN TRY BARGAINING BUT THAT DOESN'T
WORK.***

YOU CAN GET ANGRY BUT THAT DOESN'T HELP.

***YOU CAN ASK GOD SOME QUESTIONS, WHICH IS
WHAT HABAKKUK DID.***

**YOU CAN GO BACK TO THE "FIRST PRINCIPLES"
AND REMIND YOURSELF OF WHO GOD IS. THAT'S
ALSO WHAT HABAKKUK DID.**

**MOST OF ALL YOU CAN DECIDE TO WAIT ON THE
LORD IN FAITH AND HOPE AND IN CONFIDENCE
THAT WHAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE NOW WILL
MAKE SENSE LATER. AS YOU WAIT REMEMBER
THAT GOD DOESN'T KEEP TIME THE WAY WE DO.**

ANOTHER COMMENTATOR WRITES: “GOD NEVER HURRIES. THERE ARE NO DEADLINES AGAINST WHICH HE MUST WORK”

FOR THE MOMENT WE WILL LEAVE HABAKKUK RIGHT HERE. HE’S IN HIS TOWER LOOKING, WATCHING, AND WAITING FOR THE LORD TO GIVE HIM AN ANSWER.

WAITING IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL, ESPECIALLY IF

YOU ARE WAITING ON THE LORD. AS YOU WAIT,

REMEMBER THAT GOD HAS NOT FORGOTTEN

YOU. YOU ARE ON HIS MIND RIGHT NOW. HE

SEES YOU IN YOUR CONFUSION, YOUR FEAR,

AND YOUR DISTRESS. DO NOT DESPAIR, BUT AS

YOU WAIT, REST YOUR WEARY SOUL ON THIS

MIGHTY PROMISE FROM GOD:

“THEY WHO WAIT FOR THE LORD SHALL RENEW

THEIR STRENGTH;

THEY SHALL MOUNT UP WITH WINGS LIKE

EAGLES;

THEY SHALL RUN AND NOT BE WEARY;

THEY SHALL WALK AND NOT FAINT” (ISAIAH

40:31).

PRAISE GOD AND MAY IT BE SO FOR YOU AND

FOR ME.....AMEN.....