

Trusting in God When Life Doesn't Make Sense
1. Complaining to God (Habakkuk 1:1 - 2:1)

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Introduction

- Habakkuk teaches us that we can trust in God when life doesn't make sense

1. Habakkuk's 1st complaint (1:1-4)

- An 'oracle' or 'a burden'
- Habakkuk prays and complains about injustice and the sin of God's people
- Habakkuk feels as though God doesn't care

Application

2. God's Response (1:5-11)

- God is committed to justice
- God's sovereignty over the nations
- Babylonian power

Application

3. Habakkuk's 2nd Complaint (1:12-2:1)

- Habakkuk shows commitment to God despite not understanding
- Habakkuk challenges God's ways
- Habakkuk waits for God's answer

Application

Conclusion

Habakkuk 1:1 – 2:1 (NIV)

1 ¹ The prophecy that Habakkuk the prophet received.

Habakkuk's Complaint

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.

The Lord's Answer

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."

Habakkuk's Second Complaint

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?

2 ¹ I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint.