



Why? The book of Habakkuk

Background on Habakkuk: Habakkuk is most likely written around 610-604 BC. By this time, the ten northern tribes of Israel have already been destroyed by Assyria, and Babylon (also referred to as the Chaldeans) is the most powerful nation. King Nebuchadnezzar attacks Judah around 605 BC and then completely destroys Jerusalem in 586 BC. This is the same period in which Daniel is taken captive- a time when all of God's people are asking, "Why doesn't God do something?" Habakkuk dialogues with God about this question, helping us today to deal with our own "why's" when life doesn't make sense.

What are your "why's" for God?

The Why's of Habakkuk to God Habakkuk 1

- Why won't God answer my prayers? (v. 1:2)
 - Why is painful suffering and injustice continuing, and why does God do nothing about it? (v. 1:2)
 - Why is there so much division and strife in our lives? (v. 1:3)
 - Why do people get away with disobeying God's laws? (v. 1:4)
 - Why do evil people succeed in hurting good people? (v. 1:13)
- Psalm 10:1; 22:1; Matthew 27:46; Psalm 44:24; 74:1; 88:14; Jeremiah 12:1

What we need to know when we don't know Why Habakkuk 1-2:4

- God is working even when you do not understand His ways. (v. 1:5-17, *Isaiah 55:6-9*)
- Look to God's Word to better know Him and how He is working. (v. 2:1-2)
"I will keep watch to see what He will speak to me..." Psalm 73:12-16
- Humbly wait in faith for God to work and fulfill His promises. (v. 2:3-4)
"Wait for it...the proud one, his soul is not right within him; But the righteous will live by his faith..."

Avoid the five "woes" against sinful people Habakkuk 2:5-20

- Woe to any that extort/steal money from others. (v. 2:6)
 - Woe to those that use unjust gain for selfish purposes and ignore those in need. (v. 2:9-11)
 - Woe to any using abusive power to control another. (v. 2:12-14)
 - Woe to any that use destructive methods to tear apart their community. (v. 2:15-17)
 - Woe to any that value the things of this world more than our Lord God. (v. 2:18-20)
- Zechariah 2:13

Prayerfully turn to the Lord for His power and presence to help you Habakkuk 2:20-3:15

"Let all the earth be silent before Him. A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet." (v. 2:20, 3:1)

- By remembering His mercy and how He has helped you and others in the past. (v. 2:20-3:15)
Read 1 Corinthians 10:6; Romans 15:4. Reflect on God's grace and mercy from your past.
- By admitting your own weakness in your challenges. (v. 3:16-17)
- By asking for God's spiritual strength that lifts you above your circumstances as you trust and worship Him.
Read 3:18-19; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Psalm 18:32-33. Now pray for God's strength in surprising new ways to lift you above tough circumstances that you may not understand.

Like Habakkuk's prayer, write your own honest prayer below to our Lord expressing your concerns about any issues and asking for His strength and guidance to hold you up:

Next Steps:

JOIN A LIFEGROUP: LifeGroups are ongoing small group communities that gather together throughout the week to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in our faith, and REACH out together to our community. To get involved or for more information, contact Connections + LifeGroups Pastor, Robert Carter, at rcarter@calvarylife.org, or indicate "LifeGroups" on The Card (located in the chair rack in the seat in front of you). calvarylife.org/lifegroups

In Response:

COMMUNION: Communion is a "meal" for believers in Jesus Christ to help us give thanks and remember His death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. The matzah bread represents the body of Christ given for us. The cup of juice represents the blood of Christ that was shed to pay the price for our sins. We are called to examine ourselves before taking communion (Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-34). We typically pass communion elements the first Sunday of the month. Most other weeks, communion is available at tables around the room after the sermon.

GIVING: The offering is received during each Sunday service. This is a way to express a wholehearted trust in God and worship Him through giving. It is also an act of obedience to God that helps free us from money having mastery over us. Tithing is a biblical command of 10% as a baseline of giving, but the New Testament calls us as followers of Jesus to give even more. Our prayer is that you plan ahead to give purposefully and joyfully to God, helping to further ministry locally and globally in Jesus' name. Discover ways to give on the front of the bulletin or calvarylife.org/give

PRAYER POINTS: These locations at the front right and left of the Worship Center will have people available to pray with you during the time of singing after the sermon and after the service as well. These people are excited to pray with you about anything in your life, including praying to tell Jesus that you believe in Him as God and trust Him for salvation. They will also pray for any health needs, stresses, worries, family members, temptations or anything else.

PRAYER ROOM: The Prayer Room is located at the front right of the Worship Center Auditorium through the doorway behind the Prayer Point. This is a quiet space that you can go to at anytime during the service to be able to pray and reflect on what God is doing in your heart.

