

Habakkuk 1: 12-17 ‘The Prophet’s Dilemma’ (inside out)

- Important for the church to understand the significance of events taking place in the world, to interpret them spiritually and understand God’s will for today.
- Things that may seem to be disastrous to natural man may be good for us.
- In every situation we face we must discover the Bible’s strategy to understand
 - 1) **Stop to Think**: the first rule is to think instead of speaking: James 1: 19
 - 2) **Remind yourself of basic principles**: start further back than the problem
 - 3) **Apply the principle to the problem**: put your trials in the context of those firm principles
 - 4) **If still in doubt, commit the problem to God in faith**: Habakkuk did v.13

I. The Problem of God’s Inaction

- Why did God allow the Chaldeans to behave as they did with such awful results
- Was God helpless in the face of these things? (today: abortion, gay marriage)
 - 1) **God is Eternal**: Habakkuk reflects on God & his struggle “**are you not from everlasting**” the prophet is laying down a solid truth in vs.12
 - 2) **God is Self-existent**: then he adds ‘are you not from everlasting, O LORD my God’, He uses the great name of God, ‘O LORD’ Jehovah
 - 3) **God is Holy**: the prophet then reminds himself of another solid truth: “**are you not from everlasting, O LORD my God, my holy One?**”
 - 4) **God is Almighty** he continues: **O LORD, you have ordained them as a judgment, and you, O Rock, have established them for reproof.**
 - 5) **God is Faithful**: next truth that helps with his dilemma: **Are you not from everlasting, O LORD my God, my Holy One? We shall not die.**

II. Reconciling God’s Character with the use of the Chaldeans

- If we admit the power of God & see the Chaldeans only as instruments, we still need to ask how a holy God can allow such things? The prophet helps us.
 - 1) **A Holy God hates sin & can do no evil**: prophet says I am sure of this: v.13
 - 2) **Therefore I commit my unresolved problems to God**: no answer is given
 - 3) **The example of the Son of God**: Matt 26: 39 "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."