

I. Introduction and Review.

- A. Who is in charge.
- B. What should you do when your world falls apart?

II. First, stop to think. James 1:19 Ecc. 5:2

- A. Your approach will determine whether you come to the right conclusion.
- B. Be slow to speak and slow to anger.
- C. Approach your problem on God's terms.

III. Second, restate the basic principles of which you are sure. v. 12-13a

- A. The benefits of the indirect approach.
- B. Remember what you know about God's Character.
 - 1. The LORD is eternal and self existent: *YHWH, Everlasting.* v. 12a Ps. 90:2 Deut. 33:27 Isa. 46:10 Mal. 3:6
 - 2. The LORD is Holy and Just: *His Eyes are too pure to approve evil.* v. 12b, 13a Is. 6:3 5:16 I Pet. 1:15-16 Rev. 4:8 Ps. 22:3 5:4-5
 - 3. The LORD is Sovereign: *You have appointed them.* v. 12d, 14a Isa. 46:10 45:7 I Chron. 29:11-12 Lam. 3:37-38
 - a. Even evil is under God's control. Isa. 45:7 Amos 3:6 Lam. 3:37-38
 - b. He uses evil for His just and holy purposes. Gen. 50:20 Acts 2:23
 - 4. The Almighty LORD is a place of refuge for His people: *My Rock.* v. 12e Ps. 18:2,31,46 Deut. 32:4 Isa. 26:4 Ps. 19:14
 - 5. The LORD is faithful to His covenant people. *My God...We will not die.* v.

IV. Third, apply what you know to your problem.

- A. Habakkuk puts his problem in the context of what he knows about God.
 - 1. Because God is eternal, the Babylonians and their idols will not prevail.
 - a. The gods of the Babylonians are feeble human creations. v. 16 Isa. 44:9-20
 - b. This present trial is temporary. Ps. 73:16-17
 - c. God's good purpose will be established. Ro. 8:18,28 II Co. 4:17
 - 2. Because God is holy and just, He has a good reason for what He is doing: our correction. v. 12de Pr. 3:11-12 Heb. 12:5f
 - a. We deserve what we are getting.
 - b. This punishment is redemptive, not destructive. Correction will purify
 - c. He is using Babylon as a rod of discipline. Isa. 10:5-6
 - d. Ultimately He will deal with them according to their sin.
 - 3. Because God is sovereign, this calamity isn't happening by chance. v. 14a, 12d
 - 4. Because God is our Rock and Refuge, we will not perish. v. 12ce
 - 5. Because God is faithful to His covenant. He will not abandon us. v. 12bc
 - a. He must fulfill His promises to Abraham and David.
 - b. He cannot allow the Babylonians to exterminate God's people. Lev. 26:44-45 Deut. 4:29-31
- B. You also can apply what you know about God to your problems.
 - 1. What perspective might we gain on the terrorism which has struck our nation? Lam. 3:37-38 Amos 3:6
 - 2. What help can you receive in facing problem in your life?

V. Finally, trust God and wait. 1:13b-2:1

- A. Habakkuk still doesn't understand how a holy and sovereign God can allow the evil Babylonians to conquer Judah.**
- 1. We may be bad, but they are much worse! v.13**
 - 2. Does the punishment exceed the crime? v. 13 Jonah 1:17 Lam. 2:2,5**
 - 3. How can God tolerate: v. 13d-17**
 - a. Treachery. v. 13d Jer. 3:8 9:2 Isa. 21:2**
 - b. Dehumanizing oppression. v. 14-15c Isa. 63:19 Ps. 8:6-8 Pr. 21:7 Jer. 16:16 Ecc. 9:12 Deut. 28:50**
 - c. Idolatrous (anti) worship: rejoicing and sacrifice. v. 15d-16b 3:18 Jer. 44:17 Ps. 9:14 32:11 I Ki. 11:8 22:43 II Ki. 12:3 Hos. 4:13-14**
 - d. Prosperity and success of the wicked. v. 16c-17 Ps. 73**
 - 4. How much longer can a just God remain silent? v. 13,17**
- B. You may face situations in which your theology doesn't seem to square with the hard realities of life. God's actions may seem inconsistent with His nature.**
- 1. Many stumble when they experience hardship and evil. Ps. 73:2-3,12-17**
 - 2. Habakkuk knows better.**
- C. Habakkuk stops complaining and starts waiting for an answer. 2:1**
- 1. He removes himself from the situation.**
 - 2. He seeks an answer from God.**
 - 3. He acts like a sentry as he watches and waits for God's reply. Isa. 21:6,8 I Ki. 19:11 Isa. 21:6 Ps. 5:3 Mic. 7:7 II Ki. 19:17-18 Ezek. 3:17 33:1-7**
 - 4. He fully expects the LORD to make things right. Pr. 3:11 12:1 Ps. 85:8**
- D. Humbly commit your burdens to the LORD. 2:1**
- 1. Remove yourself from the problem and seek God.**
 - 2. Entrust your problem to the LORD. Phil. 4:6-7 I Pet. 5:7**
 - 3. Patiently wait in expectation of an answer.**
 - 4. From where might the answer come?**
 - a. The Word of God.**
 - b. The outworking of God's plan.**

VI. Concluding Applications.

Discussion Questions for Family Worship

- 1. What is Habakkuk's first complaint. 1:1-4**
- 2. What is the LORD's first answer. 1:5-11**
- 3. What is Habakkuk's second complaint? 1:13-17**
- 4. What four steps for approaching trouble are illustrated by Habakkuk?**
- 5. How does the character of God help Habakkuk with his problem?**
- 6. How can we find comfort and understanding from God's character as we face our personal, church, and national problems?**
- 7. How are the Babylonians a gross offense to Habakkuk (and God?) 1:13-17**
- 8. What does Habakkuk do when he can't think a satisfactory answer to his dilemma? 2:1**
- 9. What should you do when trouble comes into your life?**
- 10. Is God sovereign over evil? Why is this important?**