

## Steadfastly Standing on the Promises

*promise: the future glory for believers will more than be worth waiting for*

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Ps 62; 2 Tim 1:1-14; Luke 17:1-10

(17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, 10/2/22)

*Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith. — 2:4*

**Lead In** – I chose the First Lesson this morning from Habakkuk because it accords well with our current daily readings from the Book of Job. Both Books are noted for questioning why evil exists and why the Lord permits evil to afflict His people. I will warn you ahead of time. The answers we receive will not likely satisfy our sense of fairness and goodness. But the question that we all ask at one time or another is addressed. Let's learn together how to persevere in faith in the face of evil ...

### I. Habakkuk's Complaint

- A. Where is the Lord who promises to hear our prayers?
- B. The law is paralyzed and justice never goes forth...
- C. Many faithful people wonder why God doesn't...

### II. Habakkuk Takes His Stand in Humility & Patience

- A. Others in the faith argue and wrestle with God...
- B. The idea of a watchman and the quiet patience...
- C. Vigilance and patience in hearing God's voice...

### III. What the Lord Answers

- A. Write the vision and make it plain on the tablets...
- B. Wait for the appointed time... God's track record...
- C. The prideful and stubborn refuse to hear God's Word..

**Parting Shot** – We must not think of Habakkuk as having nothing to go on as he awaited the fulfillment of the vision of Israel's restoration. He knew of the Flood, of the Exodus, of the many deliverances in Joshua and Judges. Think of the position we are in compared to Job and Habakkuk! The fulfillment of all that was pointed to in Scripture has come. Jesus, the Incarnate Son of God, was crucified, buried, and has risen from the tomb. Before ascending He promises...

**Ps 50:15** "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."

**Ps 13:1** How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

**Ps 73:3, 8-14** For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. ... They scoff and speak with malice; loftily they threaten oppression. They set their mouths against the heavens, and their tongue struts through the earth. Therefore his people turn back to them, and find no fault in them. And they say, "How can God know? Is there knowledge in the Most High?" Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches. All in vain have I kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence. For all the day long I have been stricken and rebuked every morning.

**Examples of Wrestling with God:** Abraham in Ge 18:23-32; Jacob in Ge 32:22-32; Jeremiah in Je 20:7-18; the Apostle Paul in 2Co 12:7-9.

## Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 ESV

*Habakkuk's Complaint*

<sup>1</sup> The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw.

<sup>2</sup> O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save? <sup>3</sup> Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. <sup>4</sup> So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted. ...

<sup>2:1</sup> I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower, and look out to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint.

*The Righteous Shall Live by His Faith*

<sup>2</sup> And the Lord answered me: "Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it. <sup>3</sup> For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.

<sup>4</sup> "Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith."

**Ez 33:7** "So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me." (cf Is 21:8; Je 6:17)

**Ps 121:1-2** I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

**Ps 119:105** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

**Ps 73:16-20** But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end. Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to ruin. How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors! Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you despise them as phantoms.

**Ro 8:18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

**Jn 14:3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

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