



HABAKKUK 1:1-11

GETTING STARTED...

“Why is there so much evil in the world?” This question has been asked in a thousand different ways for as long as evil has existed in God’s world. Consistently it is one of the reasons that people cite for why they don’t believe in God, and it is often a stumbling block even in our own faith. As we begin the book of Habakkuk, we find the prophet is asking this exact same question in his day. As Habakkuk looks out over the city of Jerusalem, he is forced to ask why God isn’t doing anything about all the evil and wrongdoing that is happening. And in a surprising twist, God answers Habakkuk’s complaint very directly but not in the way that he was expecting. God is going to wipe out all evil, but that might be more than Habakkuk was bargaining for.

READ THE TEXT: HABAKKUK 1:1-11

- 1 The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw.
2 O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not hear?
Or cry to you “Violence!”
and you will not save?
3 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.
4 So the law is paralyzed,
and justice never goes forth.
For the wicked surround the righteous;
so justice goes forth perverted.
5 “Look among the nations, and see;
wonder and be astounded.
For I am doing a work in your days
that you would not believe if told.

⁶ For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans,
 that bitter and hasty nation,
 who march through the breadth of the earth,
 to seize dwellings not their own.
⁷ They are dreaded and fearsome;
 their justice and dignity go forth from themselves.
⁸ Their horses are swifter than leopards,
 more fierce than the evening wolves;
 their horsemen press proudly on.
 Their horsemen come from afar;
 they fly like an eagle swift to devour.
⁹ They all come for violence,
 all their faces forward.
 They gather captives like sand.
¹⁰ At kings they scoff,
 and at rulers they laugh.
 They laugh at every fortress,
 for they pile up earth and take it.
¹¹ Then they sweep by like the wind and go on,
 guilty men, whose own might is their god!"

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. What is the historical context of the book we are reading? Look at 2 Kings 23:36-24:7. While the exact date of Habakkuk's prophecy is unknown, this time frame is the most likely historical background.
2. In your own words summarize Habakkuk's complaint in vs 1-4, and God's response in vs 5-11.

REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been applying to your heart from the sermon?

APPLYING THE POINT

5. What is your typical response to seeing injustice or hurt around you? How do you respond when it comes to going through hardship yourself? What does it look like to cry out to God in these moments?
6. Do you ever feel like God's judgment is too harsh? What does this reveal to ourselves about our view of holiness and justice?
 - a. How would you respond to a believer who thinks that way? How would you respond to a non-believer who thinks that way?
7. Why is the judgment of God against sin and evil a good thing? How should that motivate us to evangelism? Living a holy life?

PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer? An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Promontory Small Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Small Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Small Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*“Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.” - Psalm 111:2*