***A Study on the Book of Habakkuk:   
When God Doesn’t . . .***

Habakkuk pours out his heart in a complaint to God, questioning him as to why he appears to be silent and uncaring toward the situation.

Habakkuk must let go off his own expectations and wait patiently for God to fulfill his divine purposes in his timing and ways.

In the end, Habakkuk’s complaint gives away to a beautiful trust in God that is not based upon the prophet’s circumstances. When we face dark, painful, and hard times, we can out pour our hearts and unedited emotions to God.

WHEN GOD DOESN’T . . . ANSWER AS EXPECTED

**Habakkuk 1:5-2:1**

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

**COMPLAINT #1**: There is Idolatry and Injustice all around. It is even tolerated by Israel’s leaders.

**REPLY #1:** The LORD God is going to summon the armies of Babylon to bring justice upon his wayward people, Israel.

**COMPLAINT #2**: Babylon is worse than Israel! What are you thinking, LORD? Habakkuk demands an explanation.

1. The LORD’S Reply (1:5-11)
2. The Prophet’s Next Question (1:12-2:1)

**WHO ARE THE BABYLONIANS?**

* The Lord answered Habakkuk’s question (cf. 1:2–4) by informing him that Judah would be judged by God through the Babylonians.
* The Babylonians (‘Kaldu’ in the Assyrian annals) were a Semitic people of southern Babylonia. When Nabopolassar native Chaldean governor, took the Babylonian throne in 626 B.C., he inaugurated a dynasty that made the ‘Chaldean’ name famous.
* The word is used in the Bible as a virtual synonym for ‘Babylonian.’
* This a nation that deifies their own power. They treat humans like animals and devour nations. The LORD God admits as much (1:11).

Why doesn’t the LORD’s answer seem to satisfy Habakkuk?

Rather than rejoicing that God was no longer silent but about to do his mighty work, Habakkuk prays another complaint to the Lord God. What are the main points that Habakkuk brings to God in his second lament?

**Evaluate:** This problem – that God seems to permit the wicked to succeed in this world -- has troubled believers in one form or another from the beginning.

God’s answer to Habakkuk was not what he expected. What effect did that have on the prophet’s outlook and mood?

When Jesus doesn’t meet our expectations, do we become disillusioned and angry, where do we need to turn for strength?

How do we respond when God’s answer is unexpected?

* We commit our way into the Lord’s hands, who declares: *“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts”* (Isaiah 55:9).