***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 . . . SEEM TO MAKE SENSE**

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

**COMPLAINT #2**:

Babylon is worse than Israel! What are you thinking, LORD? Habakkuk demands an explanation.

 **REPLY #2:**

God will bring Babylon down!

**Habakkuk 2:2-20**

1. The Just Live by Faith (2:2-4)
2. Five Woes (2:5-20)

**God’s Timing**

God is always at work, and while his work might seem slow to us, God will, in his own time and own ways, fulfill his Word. As we wait on God to faithfully fulfill his Word, we put our trust and confidence in the Lord and not rely on our own understanding.

Why do you think the LORD God wants the prophet to clearly write on a stone tablet?

The phrase **“will live by his faith”** can also be translated as **“live by his faithfulness.”** The former translation focuses on a dependence on the Lord to act faithfully. The latter gives the impression that we focus on our ability to do things in a faithful or loyal way. Which one would fit better with Habakkuk’s prophecy as well as with our daily living?

How are you living by faith – depending on God’s doing – as you navigate these current, crazy days?

The LORD God now turns his attention to the Babylonian army and nation. The LORD God answers Habakkuk’s lament about Babylon as an answer to his initial questions. The Lord tells the prophet that he will bring Babylon down, but that answer doesn’t make sense. Why shouldn’t that answer make sense to Habakkuk?

Why shouldn’t we expect God’s answers to always make sense to us?

**God’s Working**

The LORD God responds to Habakkuk’s further question with a series of 5 woes in response to how he will deal with Babylon:

* + **1 and 2: *Unjust Economics***
	+ **3: *A Critique of Slave Labor***
	+ **4: *Irresponsible Leadership***
	+ **5: *Idolatry***

This series of woes is in direct response to Habakkuk’s complaint regarding Babylon as a poor answer to the cry for justice.

The violence and oppression of the nations creates a never-ending cycle of revenge. How is this cycle of injustice part of God’s answer to oppression and injustice?

**Consider:** Most nations become “Babylon.”

**Evaluate:** Asking God for clarity is the wrong question to ask.