

When God Seems Inconsistent

#1 – Is God Absent?

Habakkuk 1:1-11

His prophecy is called “The burden” (1). It weighed heavy on his heart as it predicted the coming judgment of God. He received his prophecy through a vision “which Habakkuk the prophet saw”.

His prophecy is unique in its character. Most prophets speak about God to men. He speaks to God about men. His prophecy is a prophecy that speaks to our times.

As Habakkuk Considered the Current Conditions He Suffered a Personal _____

1. Habakkuk's Questions (2-4)

His Faith Was Stretched to Near the Breaking Point

- **Is God _____?**

Why is God silent? This is similar to the disciples in the midst of the storm and Jesus is asleep in the boat. “Do you not care that we are perishing?” Note the Lord’s response to them. “Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?” Mark 4:40.

God's Apparent Absences Are _____

- **Is God _____?**

First he accuses Jehovah of not listening and now he accuses Him of not saving. This is a very serious charge. Calvin, “God does not condemn us for this freedom in our prayers.” Is God indifferent to all of the heartbreaking conditions in the world, in our culture, in our families and in our lives? Why does He not dramatically intervene?

God's Apparent Inaction Is a Purposeful _____ of God

- **Is God _____?**

The prophet could not understand **why**. Why did not God do something to stem the tide of ungodliness in the nation? Why does God seem so unconcerned with such injustice? **Do not doubt God's justice because His judgment is delayed.** As we look at the deteriorating condition of our culture and of the church we should be neither apathetic nor anxious. When man fails, nothing of God fails.

God's Apparent Permissiveness Is an Evidence of His _____

2. God's Answer (5-11)

The Answer Seems Inadequate at First Glance

- **Do not wail, _____!**

God is not an unconcerned spectator. Psalm 7:11, “God is a just judge, and God is angry with the wicked every day.”

My Questioning Will Turn to _____ When I Perceive My World through God's Word

- **I am not waiting I am _____!**

God is always working, He is never inactive. Much of what God is doing in our lives is unseen by us.

Isaiah 28:21, “...that He may do His work, His awesome work, and bring to pass His act, His unusual act.”

God Is Never _____

- **I am not unprepared I have _____!**

God is bringing the Babylonians to Judea to become His instrument of judgment. Anything that God allows into our lives comes with a divine purpose.

Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

God Is Never _____

• **I am not accountable I am** _____!

Habakkuk is shocked to hear that God is using the Babylonians. Verses 7-11 show that God is fully aware of their character and actions. God will use things in our lives that we don't understand. 2 Corinthians 12:7-9, "And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me...Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness"." We should not question God's working in our lives just because we don't understand it at the moment.

God Is Often _____

We respond to God's apparent absences in our lives through _____ His Person and His Promises