

Series: Questioning God; Sermon: **Why Don't You Do Anything about Justice?**  
delivered by **Josh Moody**, senior pastor, on August 2, 2020

**Bible text explored: Habakkuk 1:1-11**

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

*Habakkuk's complaint*

<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.

*The LORD's answer*

<sup>5</sup>"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.

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>They are dreaded and fearsome;  
their justice and dignity go forth from  
themselves.

<sup>8</sup>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.

<sup>9</sup>They all come for violence,  
all their faces forward.  
They gather captives like sand.

<sup>10</sup>At kings they scoff,  
and at rulers they laugh.

They laugh at every fortress,  
for they pile up earth and take it.

<sup>11</sup>Then they sweep by like the wind and go  
on,  
guilty men, whose own might is their  
god!"

[ESV]

**Review and application:**

*Habakkuk prophesied in the southern kingdom, Judah, after then-dominant Assyria had defeated the northern kingdom, Israel. He wrote before the Chaldeans/Babylonians displaced Assyria as the regional power, swiftly defeating and deporting his own people.*

1. How (*verse 1*) does the dialogic nature of this oracle or "weighty burden" distinguish it from other prophetic writings?

In his vision, how does Habakkuk's "complaint" differ from grumbling?  
(See *Psalms 102:1-2*.)

2. Have you, like Habakkuk (*verse 2*), felt like God's answers are slow in arriving?  
(See *Revelation 6:10*.)

What sorts of violence are we currently encountering today . . .  
. . . in the way opponents are treated with disdain?  
. . . in verbal murder committed over social media?

Do you see how questioning God can become the "birth pains" of renewed faith?

3. Are you entitled to feel (*verse 3*) that . . .  
. . . God is tolerating morally wrong actions?  
. . . he doesn't care?

4. How (*verse 4*) does the law of God often go unheeded?  
(See *Mark 7:9; Matthew 13:19-22*.)

How is justice often twisted when the righteous are outnumbered?

Whose definition of justice must ultimately prevail? (See *Deuteronomy 1:17a*.)

5. What mind-blowing force (*verses 5-6a*) does the LORD announce he is raising up?
6. Note the factors (*verses 6b-11a*) that contributed to this force's un-stop-ability:
  - Their land grabs (*verse 6b*)
  - Their cruel unaccountability (*7*)
  - Their *blitzkrieg* tactics (*8*)
  - Their deportation policies (*9*)
  - Their expertise at overriding city defenses (*10*)
7. How (*verse 11b*) did the LORD describe the people he was raising up as to . . .
  - . . . their innocence or guilt?
  - . . . what motivated them?
8. What other "evil empire" did God raise up to crucify his one and only Son?