

Answering Life's Toughest Questions

Lesson One • Habakkuk 1:1-11

Where Is God When I Need Him?

Background to the Book of Habakkuk:

- ❖ Habakkuk is the author and his name means "one who EMBRACES".
- ❖ Habakkuk wrote this book around 609 BC leading up to the Babylonian captivity of Jerusalem and God's people Judah.
- ❖ Habakkuk was a PROPHET, one who is appointed to speak God's message.

Habakkuk's 4-Part Complaint About God's Silence:

1. My Prayers Are UNANSWERED!

"O Lord, how long shall I cry, and You will not hear?" Habakkuk 1:2a

God Always Answers Prayer in One of Four Ways:

- God may answer: "WHAT?"
- God may answer: "NO!"
- God may answer: "YES!"
- God may answer: "WAIT!"

2. My Counsel Is UNHEEDED!

"Even cry out to You, 'Violence!' And You will not save." Habakkuk 1:2b

3. My Circumstances Are UNBEARABLE!

"Why do You show me iniquity, and cause me to see trouble? For plundering and violence are before me; there is strife, and contention arises." Habakkuk 1:3

4. My Faith Is UNRAVELING!

"Therefore the law is powerless, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; therefore perverse judgment proceeds." Habakkuk 1:4

Habakkuk's Question:

Where is God when I need Him?

God's Answer:

I am working even when you don't SEE it!

"Look among the nations and watch—be utterly astounded! For I will work a work in your days which you would not believe, though it were told you." Habakkuk 1:5

Lessons of Hope from God's Answer to Habakkuk's Question:

- ❖ I will never see God's work unless I WAIT on God.
- ❖ I will never wait on God without FAITH in God.