

Speaker : Associate Pastor Steven Kum
Title : From Perplexity to Praise
Text : Habakkuk 2:4

Introduction

- Habakkuk's name means to "embrace" or "wrestle."
- It is apt as the book sees the prophet wrestle with observations that bother him greatly
 - If God is a good God, how come there is so much evil in the world?
 - How come there is so much wickedness seems to go unpunished?
 - Why doesn't God hear prayers crying out for justice
- He boldly brings his questions to God Himself

Habakkuk's First Question To God

- How come You are doing nothing about the evil I see around me? (Habakkuk 1:2-4)
 - The prophet notes that sin, wickedness, destruction and violence, injustice seems to reign in Judah where the wicked outnumber the righteous (vs. 2-3)
 - The Law is futile and powerless (v. 4)
 - And to top it all, Habakkuk's constant, continued intercession for righteousness seems to amount to nothing (v. 2)

God's First Response

- I am doing something (Habakkuk 1:5-11)
 - Look and observe (v. 5)
 - I am raising up the Babylonians to teach Judah a lesson (Vs 6)
 - They are ruthless, lawless, bent on violence and strong and will do a great job (vs. 7-11)

Habakkuk's Second Question To God

- How can you do that? (Habakkuk 1:12-2:1)
 - You are Holy and Righteous and You have made a covenant with us (v. 12)
 - How can you let the Babylonians punish Judah? They are even worse (vs. 13-17)
 - I am upset and perplexed – please explain (Habakkuk 2:1)

God's Second Response

- God's Answer (Habakkuk 2:2-20)
 - The Babylonians will get their own punishment in due time (vs. 2-3)
 - I know what I am doing. Those who do wrong will be punished (vs. 4-14)
 - Trust me – be faithful (Habakkuk 2:4). The Lord is in His Holy Temple and judgment will be meted out to the proud, greedy, dishonest, violent, sensual and idolaters (vs. 15-20)

Habakkuk's Prayer Of Praise

- Habakkuk now acknowledges God is in control (Habakkuk 3:1-19)
 - He pleads for mercy in the midst of the judgment (vs. 1-2).
 - He acknowledges God's majesty and power (vs. 3-15).
 - He promises to trust and wait on the Lord regardless (vs. 16-19)

Conclusion

- God sometimes seems to be doing nothing, but He is always involved
- God is holy and will never approve evil
- God hears and answers prayers but sometimes His answers are totally unexpected
- The righteous live by faith and faithfulness