

REVIEW/PAUSE/PLAY

HABAKKUKish: Conversation #4 – Chapter 1:5

Watch This! Be Astonished! And Wonder!

Context of Habakkuk

All the “Woes” in chapter 2 are addressed against **ISRAEL**, **BABYLON**, and **ALL** who practice these sins.

God uses judgment and difficult circumstances to bring about **PURIFICATION**, **SALVATION**, and **GLORIFICATION**. Hb 2:20

Context of Acts 13

Paul is **WARNING** the Jews in Antioch against rejecting Jesus as the **MESSIAH**. vs 40-41

Paul sees Jewish **REJECTION** as an opportunity for **SALVATION** to come to the Gentiles. vs 46-47

The Gentiles are **SAVED**, the Lord is **GLORIFIED** and the gospel spreads further due to **PERSECUTION**. vs 48-52

Biblical Examples:

Joseph (Genesis 50:20) **SALVATION**

Ai/Achan (Joshua 7) **PURIFICATION**

Man born blind (John 9:1-5) **GLORIFICATION**

Lazarus' death (John 11:1-16) **GLORIFICATION**

Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:11) **PURIFICATION**

Paul and Silas (Acts 16:22-34) **SALVATION**

Prison Epistles: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon
PURIFICATION

Historical Examples

Current Opportunities:

Influx of **REFUGEES**

World **PANDEMIC**

The Character of God

If I **KNOW** God, understand **HIS** ways, and **TRUST** His **CHARACTER**, I can rejoice even in the most difficult circumstances because in and through them He is **SAVING** the **LOST**, **PURIFYING** His **CHURCH**, and **GLORIFYING** Himself.

Habakkuk 1:5 “Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because I am doing something in your days—You would not believe if you were told.”

DISCOVER

1. In today's vernacular, we hear the term “fake news” a lot. What is fake news and is it a new idea? Does it mean “I’ll believe it when I see it.”? What makes a person so bent on witnessing something or weighing the evidence themselves?
2. Why do we believe in something we cannot physically experience or intellectually understand? In contrast to the above question, discuss the idea that, “I see it because I believe it.”
3. Compare and contrast purification vs. judgment. How is salvation impacted by these two ideas?

EXPLORE

1. Read Ezekiel 12:21-28. What was the false proverb that was common in Jerusalem? How did God tell Ezekiel to respond to the common wisdom that Ezekiel's prophecies were about a time in the distant future?
2. Read Joshua 7. What was Achan's sin of presumption? How did his sin affect the entire nation of Israelites? Why did God place so much importance on purification prior to the Jews entering the Promised Land? How does this apply to the church today?
3. Read Luke 5:1-7. Did Simon Peter believe there was going to be a great catch of fish? How would the outcome of this story been changed if he had refused to obey Jesus? Just from this passage, what inferences can we make about Simon Peter's relationship with Jesus?

EXPERIENCE

1. About which commands of God do you tend to think, “That doesn't mean me” or “That doesn't mean now”? Why do you think that is? How can you change your perspective?
2. Why is it dangerous to fail in taking God's Word seriously even if we don't see the immediate fulfillment or importance of it?
3. With current events in mind, in what ways can we see God accomplishing His will despite the evil circumstances surrounding them? How is God purifying His church through these events?
4. How does knowing God's character help us to make important life decisions according to His will?

PRAY

Pray...Our Gracious God and Father, forgive us for saying in our hearts that You are blowing it in some way; that we would handle trying circumstances differently than You. Forgive us this pride that is so pervasive in our character. But You, O Lord, Your character is forever and perfectly intact. You are exactly who You say You are. Help us to trust in Your character especially when we cannot see how things are going to work out. May we seek to glorify Your Name in every aspect of our lives. Amen.

Action...What is your greatest take-away from this LG discussion? In what concrete way can you “act it out” through you relationships this week?