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THE MINOR PROPHETS
BOOK 9 – HABAKKUK

Habakkuk addresses an age-old question. How can a good God allow or tolerate so much evil? Today, one might even ask, how can a loving God allow this child to die of cancer? Or how does God allow a dishonest man to accumulate such great wealth?

Habakkuk 1:2-4 is the complaint of Judah's sin, violence, and strife. Why does God not judge them?

In Habakkuk 1:5-11 God answers the prophet. God tells him that indeed Judah will not go unpunished because the Chaldeans (Babylonians) are being raised up as His punishment for Judah's evil. This prophecy came true about 20 years later as Nebuchadnezzar took Judah captive into Babylon.

However, that prophecy caused greater consternation for the prophet. Judah, although quite sinful and vicious, was still more righteous than Babylon, so how could God reward the evil Babylonians with the spoils from Judea (and Jerusalem)? So, in Habakkuk 2:1, the prophet stood watch upon the tower (watchman on the wall) to await God's answer.

God told the prophet that it is yet for an appointed time, but in the meantime, he said in 2:4, **"...the Just shall live by his faith."** Then, shall God's judgment rain upon the evil ones. First, shall Judea be sacked by Babylon, then afterward shall Babylon be punished for their role against Jerusalem. Neither nation would escape judgment.

Chapter 3 is a poetic prayer of Habakkuk acknowledging God's divine judgment and exalting God for the brightness of His salvation. Verses 18-19 conclude by acknowledging that God will raise up His people to walk in high places.

Judah was restored, but Babylon was never raised up again.

The dilemma is answered. Although bad things happen to good people, ultimately in the end, all will work out right with our most righteous God. Some things may seem like a bitter pill to swallow, but **"...the just (the righteous) shall live by his faith."** That all works out according to God's good and righteous plan.