

Struggling with God's Choice of Tools: Habakkuk

NIV Habakkuk 1:2-4

Habakkuk's Complaint

2. How long, O LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen?
Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save?
3. Why do you make me look at injustice?
Why do you tolerate wrong?
Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds.
Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails.
The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.

NIV Habakkuk 1:2-4

The LORD's Answer

5. "Look at the nations and watch-- and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.
6. I am raising up the Babylonians, that ruthless and impetuous people, who sweep across the whole earth to seize dwelling places not their own.
7. They are a feared and dreaded people; they are a law to themselves and promote their own honor.

NIV Habakkuk 1:12-13

Habakkuk's Second Complaint

- O LORD, you have appointed them to execute judgment; O Rock, you have ordained them to punish.
13. Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?

NIV Habakkuk 2:9-14

The LORD's Answer

9. "Woe to him who builds his realm by unjust gain to set his nest on high, to escape the clutches of ruin!
10. You have plotted the ruin of many peoples, shaming your own house and forfeiting your life.
11. The stones of the wall will cry out, and the beams of the woodwork will echo it.
12. "Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed and establishes a town by crime!
13. Has not the LORD Almighty determined that the people's labor is only fuel for the fire, that the nations exhaust themselves for nothing?
14. For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

NIV Habakkuk 3:17-18

Habakkuk's Prayer

17. Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls,
18. yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior.

Isaiah

10:5-19

When The Bad Do Well

- Do not fret** because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong;
2. for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.
 3. Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.
 4. Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. NIV Psalms 37:1-4

Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

2. But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.
3. For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. NIV Psalms 73:1-3

The LORD said to Joshua, "Stand up! What are you doing down on your face?"

11. Israel has sinned; . . . NIV Joshua 7:10-11

God Uses Everybody Somehow

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. NIV Genesis 50:20

All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing.

He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?"

37. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble. NIV Daniel 4:35, 37

The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed, but woe to that man who betrays him." NIV Luke 22:22

Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. 28. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. NIV Acts 4:27-28

For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." NIV Romans 9:17