



336 Oakwood Avenue  
Orange, NJ

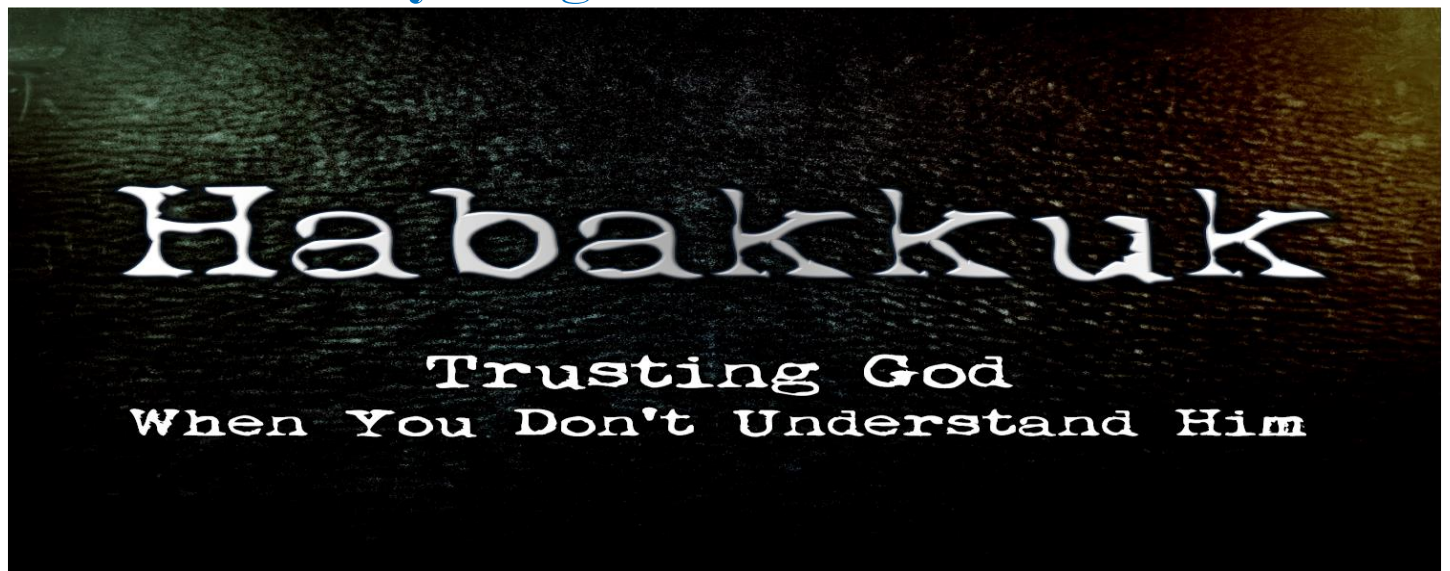
Rev. Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor/Teacher

Email: [pastorwilson@stmatthewame.org](mailto:pastorwilson@stmatthewame.org)

Cell: (914) 562-6331



**“Almost” Everything You Need to Know About...**



**Tuesday, September 14, 2021**  
**Online Bible Study**

# WELCOME BACK

IT'S GREAT  
TO SEE YOU!

## Quick-Review

- This is Bible Study!
- My expectations of you as a student.
- Your expectations of the Bible Study leader.
- What I believe the Lord said to me...
- Plan for 15 more minutes each week.

**Our study of the Book of Habakkuk comes along at a **PERFECT** time in our lives! Why?**

### I. BASIC DETAILS ABOUT THE BOOK

1. Habakkuk means “embrace, one who embraces, to wrestle”
2. 35<sup>th</sup> book of the Bible; 13<sup>th</sup> of 17 books of prophecy (Isaiah – Malachi); 8<sup>th</sup> of the 12 minor prophets (Hosea – Malachi). 3 chapters, 56 verses, 1,476 words.

### II. STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK

Habakkuk complains to/questions God



God answers



Habakkuk complains/questions God again



God answers



Habakkuk prays and gives God praise!


### III. QUESTIONS RAISED IN THIS BOOK

*Why does evil go unpunished?*

*How can a loving God allow the wicked Babylonians to punish a less wicked people?*

What is theodicy?

- Theodicy is the accepted name for the whole idea of trying to resolve the problem of evil with the existence of a good and omnipotent God is theodicy.
- Theos - God
- Dike - Justice
- A theodicy therefore, is an attempt to justify God, to show that God can still have the character which is claimed by believers, even if the world does contain both natural and moral evil.



*Our faithful and  
compassionate God  
allows us to ask any  
question we want no  
matter how difficult.*

LAURA STORY



# ...but will you like the answer?

## Can you handle the answer?

### IV. THE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- Note 1:1:

The prophecy that Habakkuk the prophet **received**.

1. Question #1 – Why does evil go unpunished?

<sup>2</sup> How long, LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, “Violence!” but you do not save? <sup>3</sup> Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds. <sup>4</sup> Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted. – 1:2-4

2. God’s reply

<sup>5</sup> “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.



<sup>6</sup> I am raising up the Babylonians, that ruthless and impetuous people, who sweep across the whole earth to seize dwellings not their own. <sup>7</sup> They are a feared and dreaded people; they are a law to themselves and promote their own honor. <sup>8</sup> Their horses are swifter than leopards, fiercer than wolves at dusk. Their cavalry gallops headlong; their horsemen come from afar. They fly like an eagle swooping to devour; <sup>9</sup> they all come intent on violence. Their hordes advance like a desert wind and gather prisoners like sand. <sup>10</sup> They mock kings and scoff at rulers. They laugh at all fortified cities; by building earthen ramps they capture them. <sup>11</sup> Then they sweep past like the wind and go on—guilty people, whose own strength is their god.” – 1:5-11

3. Question #2 – How can a loving God allow the wicked Babylonians to punish a less wicked people?

<sup>2</sup> LORD, are you not from everlasting? My God, my Holy One, you<sup>l</sup> will never die. You, LORD, have appointed them to execute judgment; you, my Rock, have ordained them to punish. <sup>13</sup> Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves? <sup>14</sup> You have made people like the fish in the sea, like the sea creatures that have no ruler. <sup>15</sup> The wicked foe pulls all of them up with hooks, he catches them in his net, he gathers them up in his dragnet; and so he rejoices and is glad. <sup>16</sup> Therefore he sacrifices to his net and burns incense to his dragnet, for by his net he lives in luxury and enjoys the choicest food. <sup>17</sup> Is he to keep on emptying his net, destroying nations without mercy? **<sup>1</sup> I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint.** – 1:12-2:1

4. God’s Response

<sup>2</sup> Then the LORD replied: **“Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. <sup>3</sup> For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.** <sup>4</sup>” See, the

enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright—but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness—<sup>5</sup> indeed, wine betrays him; he is arrogant and never at rest. Because he is as greedy as the grave and like death is never satisfied, he gathers to himself all the nations and takes captive all the peoples. <sup>6</sup> “Will not all of them taunt him with ridicule and scorn, saying, “Woe to him who piles up stolen goods and makes himself wealthy by extortion! How long must this go on?’ <sup>7</sup> Will not your creditors suddenly arise? Will they not wake up and make you tremble? Then you will become their prey. <sup>8</sup> Because you have plundered many nations, the peoples who are left will plunder you. For you have shed human blood; you have destroyed lands and cities and everyone in them. <sup>9</sup> “Woe to him who builds his house by unjust gain, setting his nest on high to escape the clutches of ruin! <sup>10</sup> You have plotted the ruin of many peoples, shaming your own house and forfeiting your life. <sup>11</sup> The stones of the wall will cry out, and the beams of the woodwork will echo it. <sup>12</sup> “Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed and establishes a town by injustice! <sup>13</sup> Has not the LORD Almighty determined that the people’s labor is only fuel for the fire, that the nations exhaust themselves for nothing? <sup>14</sup> For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. <sup>15</sup> “Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbors, pouring it from the wineskin till they are drunk, so that he can gaze on their naked bodies! <sup>16</sup> You will be filled with shame instead of glory. Now it is your turn! Drink and let your nakedness be exposed! The cup from the LORD’s right hand is coming around to you, and disgrace will cover your glory. <sup>17</sup> The violence you have done to Lebanon will overwhelm you, and your destruction of animals will terrify you. For you have shed human blood; you have destroyed lands and cities and everyone in them. <sup>18</sup> “Of what value is an idol carved by a craftsman? Or an image that teaches lies? For the one who makes it trusts in his own creation; he makes idols that cannot speak. <sup>19</sup> Woe to him who says to wood, ‘Come to life!’ Or to lifeless stone, ‘Wake up!’ Can it give guidance? It is covered with gold and silver; there is no breath in it.” <sup>20</sup> **The LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him. – 2:2-20**

5. Habakkuk’s prayer and praise.

## V. WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM/SEE IN HABAKKUK?

1. It is alright to ask God questions.
2. We may or may not get an answer to every question we ask God.
3. Some answers may be revealed over time. (“Chronos” vs. “Kairos”)
4. There’s a big difference between an “inquiry” and a “complaint.” It has to do with the “spirit” of the question.
5. God can be trusted even when we don’t have all the answers or understand what is going on.
6. Peace and joy should not be based on circumstances, because circumstances change. Peace and joy must be found in the relationship we have with God.
7. It’s time to be delivered from thinking that everything has to be “fair.”
8. No matter what, don’t ever stop praying. God desires and deserves praise.
9. God has everything under control.

## VI. BIBLE PROJECT VIDEO ON HABAKKUK

## VII. NEXT WEEK: READ ZEPHANIAH

### A LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA FOR YOUR JOURNEY

#### Psalm 37

<sup>1</sup> Do not fret because of those who are evil  
or be envious of those who do wrong;  
<sup>2</sup> for like the grass they will soon wither,  
like green plants they will soon die away.  
<sup>3</sup> Trust in the LORD and do good;  
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.  
<sup>4</sup> Take delight in the LORD,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.  
<sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD;  
trust in him and he will do this:  
<sup>6</sup> He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,  
your vindication like the noonday sun.  
<sup>7</sup> Be still before the LORD  
and wait patiently for him;  
do not fret when people succeed in their ways,  
when they carry out their wicked schemes.  
<sup>8</sup> Refrain from anger and turn from wrath;  
do not fret—it leads only to evil.  
<sup>9</sup> For those who are evil will be destroyed,

#### Psalm 73

<sup>1</sup> Surely God is good to Israel,  
to those who are pure in heart.  
<sup>2</sup> But as for me, my feet had almost slipped;  
I had nearly lost my foothold.  
<sup>3</sup> For I envied the arrogant  
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.  
<sup>4</sup> They have no struggles;  
their bodies are healthy and strong.<sup>[a]</sup>  
<sup>5</sup> They are free from common human burdens;  
they are not plagued by human ills.  
<sup>6</sup> Therefore pride is their necklace;  
they clothe themselves with violence.  
<sup>7</sup> From their callous hearts comes iniquity<sup>[b]</sup>;  
their evil imaginations have no limits.  
<sup>8</sup> They scoff, and speak with malice;  
with arrogance they threaten oppression.  
<sup>9</sup> Their mouths lay claim to heaven,  
and their tongues take possession of the earth.  
<sup>10</sup> Therefore their people turn to them  
and drink up waters in abundance.<sup>[c]</sup>

but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land.

<sup>10</sup> A little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look for them, they will not be found.

<sup>11</sup> But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy peace and prosperity.

<sup>12</sup> The wicked plot against the righteous and gnash their teeth at them;

<sup>13</sup> but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he knows their day is coming.

<sup>14</sup> The wicked draw the sword and bend the bow

to bring down the poor and needy, to slay those whose ways are upright.

<sup>15</sup> But their swords will pierce their own hearts, and their bows will be broken.

<sup>16</sup> Better the little that the righteous have than the wealth of many wicked;

<sup>17</sup> for the power of the wicked will be broken, but the LORD upholds the righteous.

<sup>18</sup> The blameless spend their days under the LORD's care, and their inheritance will endure forever.

<sup>19</sup> In times of disaster they will not wither; in days of famine they will enjoy plenty.

<sup>20</sup> But the wicked will perish:

Though the LORD's enemies are like the flowers of the field, they will be consumed, they will go up in smoke.

<sup>21</sup> The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously;

<sup>22</sup> those the LORD blesses will inherit the land, but those he curses will be destroyed.

<sup>23</sup> The LORD makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him;

<sup>24</sup> though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with his hand.

<sup>25</sup> I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.

<sup>26</sup> They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be a blessing.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>27</sup> Turn from evil and do good; then you will dwell in the land forever.

<sup>11</sup> They say, "How would God know? Does the Most High know anything?"

<sup>12</sup> This is what the wicked are like— always free of care, they go on amassing wealth.

<sup>13</sup> Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and have washed my hands in innocence.

<sup>14</sup> All day long I have been afflicted, and every morning brings new punishments.

<sup>15</sup> If I had spoken out like that, I would have betrayed your children.

<sup>16</sup> When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply

<sup>17</sup> till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.

<sup>18</sup> Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin.

<sup>19</sup> How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors!

<sup>20</sup> They are like a dream when one awakes; when you arise, Lord, you will despise them as fantasies.

<sup>21</sup> When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered,

<sup>22</sup> I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.

<sup>23</sup> Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand.

<sup>24</sup> You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.

<sup>25</sup> Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

<sup>26</sup> My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

<sup>27</sup> Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.

<sup>28</sup> But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.



<sup>28</sup> For the LORD loves the just  
and will not forsake his faithful ones.  
Wrongdoers will be completely destroyed<sup>Ⓜ</sup>;  
the offspring of the wicked will perish.

<sup>29</sup> The righteous will inherit the land  
and dwell in it forever.

<sup>30</sup> The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom,  
and their tongues speak what is just.

<sup>31</sup> The law of their God is in their hearts;  
their feet do not slip.

<sup>32</sup> The wicked lie in wait for the righteous,  
intent on putting them to death;

<sup>33</sup> but the LORD will not leave them in the power of  
the wicked  
or let them be condemned when brought to  
trial.

<sup>34</sup> Hope in the LORD  
and keep his way.  
He will exalt you to inherit the land;  
when the wicked are destroyed, you will see it.

<sup>35</sup> I have seen a wicked and ruthless man  
flourishing like a luxuriant native tree,

<sup>36</sup> but he soon passed away and was no more;  
though I looked for him, he could not be found.

<sup>37</sup> Consider the blameless, observe the upright;  
a future awaits those who seek peace.<sup>Ⓜ</sup>

<sup>38</sup> But all sinners will be destroyed;  
there will be no future<sup>Ⓜ</sup> for the wicked.

<sup>39</sup> The salvation of the righteous comes from  
the LORD;  
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.

<sup>40</sup> The LORD helps them and delivers them;  
he delivers them from the wicked and  
saves them,  
because they take refuge in him.

Join us on the St. Matthew Prayer Line daily at 6 am & 9:30 pm.

**CALL-IN PHONE NUMBER: (206) 806-9984**