



*"We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ." Col 1:28*

**"WHY?"**

## **Habakkuk 1:12-17**

May 24, 2026

### **Hab 1:12-17**

**12 Are You not from everlasting, O Lord, my God, my Holy One? We will not die. You, O Lord, have appointed them to judge; And You, O Rock, have established them to correct.**

13 Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, And You can not look on wickedness with favor. Why do You look with favor On those who deal treacherously? Why are You silent when the wicked swallow up Those more righteous than they?

14 Why have You made men like the fish of the sea, Like creeping things without a ruler over them?

15 The Chaldeans bring all of them up with a hook, Drag them away with their net, And gather them together in their fishing net. Therefore, they rejoice and are glad.

16 Therefore they offer a sacrifice to their net And burn incense to their fishing net; Because through these things their catch is large, And their food is plentiful.

17 Will they therefore empty their net And continually slay nations without sparing?

**12 Are You not from everlasting, O Lord, my God, my Holy One? We will not die. You, O Lord, have appointed them to judge; And You, O Rock, have established them to correct.**

### **3. God is holy. (12c)**

**HOLINESS** - His character is free from all impurity. He is eternally separate and distinct from all impurity (Is. 6:3).

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- When you do not understand what God is doing in your life and things seem shaky, it is best to step back onto solid ground and think about who God is.
- Habakkuk brings to mind 6 attributes of God that are his Rock.

#### **1. God is eternal (12a)**

**ETERNALITY** - God exists forever, meaning he has no beginning or end (Psalm 90:2; 1 Tim. 1:17). He has always existed in the same way: fully and completely as God.

\*He has existed long before your problem existed and will be there long after your problem is gone.

#### **2. God is self-existent – "Lord" (12b)**

**יהוה** - Yahweh – "I AM" – self-existence.

**ASEITY** - God is self-existent. He does not need us or the rest of creation for His existence. While everything other than God depends on God for everything, God depends on no one or no thing for His existence. (Is. 40:18,25; Ex.3:14,15)

\*God will not suddenly disappear. He will not run out of fuel or energy. He will be there.

"Holiness in angels and saints is but a quality, but in God it is His essence...God's holiness and His nature are not two things. They are but one. God's holiness is His nature, and God's nature is His holiness."

- Thomas Brooks

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4. **God is faithful.** (12d)

**FAITHFUL** - all-trustworthy. God will always do what He has promised to do (Is. 25:1; Ps. 100:5; Ps. 36:5).

\*God will be faithful to His promise in the Abrahamic Covenant.

**2 Chron 20:5-6**

5 Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord before the new court,  
6 and he said, "O Lord, the God of our fathers, are You not God in the heavens? And are You not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand so that no one can stand against You.

**Lam 3:21-23**

21 This I recall to my mind,  
Therefore I have hope.

22 The Lord's lovingkindness indeed never cease,  
For His compassions never fail.

23 They are new every morning;  
Great is Your faithfulness.

**Acts 4:23-24**

23 When they had been released, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them.

24 And when they heard this, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, "O Lord, it is You who MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM,

**13 Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, And You can not look on wickedness with favor. Why do You look with favor On those who deal treacherously? Why are You silent when the wicked swallow up Those more righteous than they?**

- Habakkuk now attempts to apply what he has just said.
- Though he knows God's attributes, He does not go deep, or broad, or high enough with them.
- It is true God is not the author of evil as though it comes from His heart and therefore approves of it in that sense. However, He does approve of evil in the sense that He uses it for His own glory. See the difference?

**"favor"** = support, approval. God does not desire to see wickedness for wickedness's sake. But God's sovereignty runs so deep that He can take the worst sin, evil, or wickedness, and use it for His glory.

- Habakkuk is perplexed. How can a holy God use sin and evil and approve of their use?
- Habakkuk – "Two wrongs do not make a right."

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5. **God is sovereign.** (12e)

**SOVEREIGNTY** - He is the highest ruler in the universe and is the source, the means, and the goal (Rom. 11:36) of all events, actions, decisions, and all else that affects man in his existence. Nothing happens without His direction or permission. God works not just some things but all things according to the counsel of His own will (Eph. 1:11). His purposes are all-inclusive and never thwarted (Isa. 46:11; Ps. 33:11); nothing takes Him by surprise. The sovereignty of God is not merely that God has the power and right to govern all things, but that He does so, always, and without exception.

6. **God is omnipotent.** (12f)

**OMNIPOTENT** - He is all-powerful. He can exercise dominion over the entire universe, carry out the purposes of his wisdom, govern the hearts of men, and create things out of nothing. (Ps. 62:11, Ps. 135:6, Rev. 1:8, 4:8)

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17 Will they therefore empty their net And continually slay nations without sparing?

**Ps 5:4**

4 For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; No evil dwells with You.

**Ps 34:15-16**

5 The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous And His ears are open to their cry.

16 The face of the Lord is against evildoers,

To cut off the memory of them from the earth.

“Sin in the life of a believer is far worse than sin in the life of an unbeliever. When God’s people deliberately disobey Him, they sin against a flood of light and an ocean of love.”

When the unbeliever sins, he is just going with the flow of his old sin nature.

When the believer sins, he is going against his new divine nature.

#### **14 Why have You made men like the fish of the sea, Like creeping things without a ruler over them?**

- Habakkuk now draws a comparison to the fishing industry.
- This is a picture of how the Chaldeans operate.
- Nations are like the fish in the sea.
- They act as though they have no leader.

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- The Chaldeans are the fishermen.
- They hook, drag, and gather nations into their nets.
- They get great joy from doing this. (i.e. they are ruthless – it does not bother them in the least how they treat others anymore than the capture of fish by the fisherman)

#### **Amos 4:2**

2 The Lord God has sworn by His holiness,

"Behold, the days are coming upon you When they will take you away with meat hooks,

And the last of you with fish hooks.

- Babylonian monuments depict the Chaldeans as having driven a hook through the lower lip of their captives and stringing them single file, like fish on a string.

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- On top of all that, Habakkuk reminds God of their ridiculous idolatry.
- They worship their nets.

**Rom 1:24-25**

24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.

25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever.

- The Chaldeans were warped and perverted. They could not think straight.

“What is an idol? Well, it is the thing loved or the person loved more than God, wanted more than God, desired more than God, treasured more than God, enjoyed more than God. It could be a girlfriend. It could be good grades. It could be the approval of other people. It could be success in business. It could be sexual stimulation. It could be a hobby or a musical group that you are following or a sport or your immaculate yard.

If we find God to be so boring or so negligible that we must put other things in his place that really satisfy us more than he does, then we not only offend him, but we also destroy ourselves. And those two things make God angry. He doesn't want to be offended and he doesn't want us to destroy ourselves. And idolatry contradicts both of those things and so his wrath comes upon the idolater.”

- John Piper

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“Idolatry is not limited to those who bring sacrifices or burn incense to inanimate objects. People of position, power, and prosperity often pay homage to the business or agency that provided them their coveted status. It becomes their constant obsession, even their ‘god.’”

- Ronald Blue

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- Habakkuk wonders how long is this going to go on?
- Habakkuk knew that the Chaldeans would continue their onslaughts if they could, but he also thought that for God to allow this would be inconsistent with His character.

**Jer 50:10-13**

10 "Chaldea will become plunder;

All who plunder her will have enough," declares the Lord.

11 "Because you are glad, because you are jubilant,

O you who pillage My heritage,

Because you skip about like a threshing heifer

And neigh like stallions,

12 Your mother will be greatly ashamed,

She who gave you birth will be humiliated.

Behold, she will be the least of the nations,

A wilderness, a parched land and a desert.

13 "Because of the indignation of the Lord she will not be inhabited,

But she will be completely desolate;

Everyone who passes by Babylon will be horrified

And will hiss because of all her wounds.

**Rev 18:1-2**

1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined with his glory.

2 And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!

### **Application**

1. When in time of trouble or crises, be sure to plant your feet on the solid ground of the attributes of God.
2. Make sure your knowledge of God is biblical and large and deep enough to cover His sovereignty.
3. God may use evil people but He is not through with them.