

God, Now I Really Don't Get It...

Habakkuk 1:12-2:4

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What perplexes a prophet of God?

Background: 2 Kings 21-25; 2 Chronicles 33-36

God's plans are often surprising and unexpected.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,”
declares the LORD.

“As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts...” (Isaiah 55:8-9)

I. God sometimes allows it to look as though the wrong thing were happening. (v. 1:12-2:1)

Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom. (Isaiah 40:28)

A. God is not angered by sincere questions or consternation. (v. 1:13)

“How long will you defend the unjust
and show partiality to the wicked? (Psalm 82:2)

B. God's goodness seems incompatible with the apparent triumphs of evil.

II. At the appropriate time, God will judge and punish ALL sin. (v. 2:2-3)

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. (2 Peter 3:9-10)

III. We must faithfully live by faith in our God and His plans and promises. (v. 2:4)

Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because “the righteous will live by faith.” (Galatians 3:11)

For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.” (Romans 1:17)

... without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. (Hebrews 11:6)

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. (Hebrews 11:1)

Jesus said to [the self-righteous religious leaders], “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him. (Matthew 21:32)

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” (Mark 1:14-15).

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:2)

You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For,

“In just a little while,
he who is coming will come
and will not delay.”

And,

“But my righteous one will live by faith.
And I take no pleasure
in the one who shrinks back.”

But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved. (Hebrews 10:36-39)