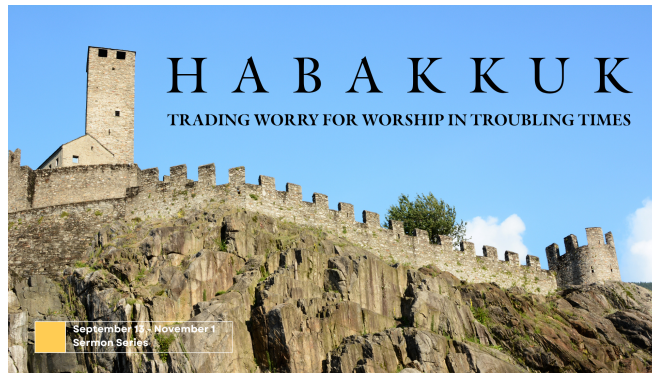




Habakkuk

Woes, Wrongs, and Wonder

“This is the message that the prophet Habakkuk received in a vision. **How long, O LORD, must I call for help?** But you do not listen! **“Violence is everywhere!”** I cry, but you do not come to save. Must I forever see these evil deeds? Why must I watch all this misery? Wherever **I look, I see destruction and violence. I am surrounded by people who love to argue and fight. The law has become paralyzed, and there is no justice in the courts. The wicked far outnumber the righteous, so that justice has become perverted.** The LORD replied, “Look around at the nations; look and be amazed! For I am doing something in your own day, something you wouldn’t believe even if someone told you about it.”

Habakkuk 1:1-5 NLT

Context:

2 Kings 24:1 (NLT) During Jehoiakim’s reign, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon invaded the land of Judah. Jehoiakim surrendered and paid him tribute for three years but then rebelled.

- Things were so bad, Jehoiakim tried to change his mind, but it was too late. Babylon was at the gate.

Jeremiah - throughout the reign of King Jehoiakim.

A Continuation Of The Prayer Series

In the book of Habakkuk we receive a first hand view of the prophet’s prayer journal! He begins with the words: this is what I received in a vision from God.

- Haza - Hebrew word used to describe when someone is caught up in the Spirit and receives a message or vision from God.
- The same word is used to describe the visions of Isaiah, Ezekiel, Amos, Micah and other prophets.
- The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe. (Pro 18:10 ESV) - the illustration of this sermon series that we will see in chapter 2.

Three W words to illustrate:

Woes - profound grief or distress; an affliction or cause of distress (personal difficulties)

- How long must I cry for help?
 - We were never promised a life without conflict.
 - I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." (Jhn 16:33 NLT)
 - Pray for Steve Culhane - at York Hospital
 - The greek word for trials and sorrow (trouble) literally means crushing pressure, affliction, heavy distress. Suffering is in the world and will affect each of us in different ways.
- I am surrounded by people who love to argue and fight.
 - [Like] apples of gold in settings of silver Is a word spoken in right circumstances. [Like] an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold Is a wise reprover to a listening ear. Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest Is a faithful messenger to those who send him, For he refreshes the soul of his masters. (Pro 25:11-13 NASB95)
 - Timely advice is lovely, like golden apples in a silver basket. To one who listens, valid criticism is like a gold earring or other gold jewelry. Trustworthy messengers refresh like snow in summer. They revive the spirit of their employer. (Pro 25:11-13 NLT)
 - God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God. (Mat 5:9 NLT)

Wrongs - not in accordance with what is morally right or good; an injustice (societal or personal)

- Violence is everywhere!
- The law has become paralyzed, and there is no justice in the courts. The wicked far outnumber the righteous, so that justice has become perverted.
- We see examples of violence and injustice everyday in our communities, nation, and world.
 - Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people, from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me! (Psa 43:1 ESV)
- - Remember 9/11.
- When we see these things we know that the world is broken.
 - Orange County Christian Mission
 - Yesterday, we were honored to welcome U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Scott Turner to the Village of Hope.
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 - During their visit, Orange County Rescue Mission (OCRM) President Bryan Crain had the opportunity to share how our faith-based approach goes beyond addressing homelessness itself to helping individuals and families overcome the challenges that so often contribute to it.
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 - "We had a great conversation about how faith-based ministries like OCRM are truly helping people address the root causes of homelessness, such as addiction, mental

illness, domestic violence, and human trafficking. It was an honor to share this time with them!" Crain shared.

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- We're grateful for the opportunity to share the work happening every day at OCRM and the life transformation made possible through compassionate, Christ-centered care.

Wonder - to be filled with admiration, amazement, or awe; to marvel.

"Look around at the nations; look and be amazed! For I am doing something in your own day, something you wouldn't believe even if someone told you about it."

Habakkuk saw a vision - when all he could see was woes, he saw a vision that set his heart to wonder. When we get real with Jesus about how difficult it is to live in this broken world, He comes and lifts up our eyes to see something greater than and our hearts are filled with wonder.

- Think about the many examples in Jesus' earthly ministry. From sinners to tax collectors, prostitutes, those infirmed by sickness and disease, religious leaders and many others. Jesus inspired an extraordinary vision of the kingdom of God.
- And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. (Eph 3:18-20 NLT)

Closing Prayer Time

Woes - Worries - Wrongs - WONDER

Open up the altar - no prayer teams this Sunday - just an impartation of WONDER in Jesus name!