

Habakkuk 1 Series

SG Questions:

1. What's something you're thankful for in this season of life?
 2. What's something that is wrong with the world that bothers you?
 3. The biblical writings consistently display both gratitude and lament or complaint as legitimate forms of prayer. What might it look like to weave both into our own prayers as well? Which one is more difficult for you?
 4. What role has the problem of evil played in your own spiritual journey?
 5. Read Habakkuk 1:1-4. What might it look like to see the problem of evil as an invitation to prayer?
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Unhelpful Response: The problem of evil becomes a philosophical excuse to dismiss **GOD**.

The problem of evil is less of an invitation to wrestle with an impersonal philosophical **QUESTION** and more of an invitation to wrestle with a personal **GOD**.

Habakkuk 1:1 *The prophecy that Habakkuk the prophet received.*

Prophet: someone who speaks on behalf of God.

Prophecy: a communication that is given from God's perspective.

Habakkuk 1:2-4 *How long, 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 wrongdoing? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds. 4 Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.*

Mosaic Covenant Blessings: Children. Crops. Livestock. Military victory. Abundant prosperity. Esteem over other nations. Remain in the land. Peace.

Mosaic Covenant Curses: Disease. Drought. Plagues. Military defeat. Abundant loss. Oppressed by other nations. Exile from the land. Death.

A prophet's job was never to **REVISE** God's word but to **REVIVE** attention to it.

Habakkuk 1:5-11 *"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 dwellings not their own. 7 They are a feared and dreaded people; they are a law to themselves and promote their*

own honor. **8** 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; **9** they all come intent on violence. Their hordes advance like a desert wind and gather prisoners like sand. **10** They mock kings and scoff at rulers. They laugh at all fortified cities; by building earthen ramps they capture them. **11** Then they sweep past like the wind and go on—guilty people, whose own strength is their god.”

Habakkuk 1:12-17 LORD, are you not from everlasting? My God, my Holy One, you will never die. You, LORD, have appointed them to execute judgment; you, my Rock, have ordained them to punish. **13** 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? **14** You have made people like the fish in the sea, like the sea creatures that have no ruler. **15** 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. **16** 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. **17** Is he to keep on emptying his net, destroying nations without mercy?

1. He recognizes the **WRONGS** of this world.

“If there is a "problem of evil" there is also a "problem of good." - Kallistos Ware

2. He brings his confused **PLEA** to God.

“I was at that time living like many atheists; in a whirl of contradictions. I maintained that God did not exist. I was also very angry with God for not existing. I was equally angry with him for creating a world. Why should creatures have the burden of existence forced on them without their consent?” -C.S. Lewis

Bottom Line: God invites our **HONEST** pleas.