

↪ **Habakkuk 1:1-8**, this is a great book to turn to when we are trying to make sense of today's news. Habakkuk raises a legitimate question to begin his book: "Is God in charge of today's news?" "If so, then why are things going the way they are?"

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## 1. First, a little history.

- ✓ Habakkuk is, in some ways, the rest of the story of the book of Nahum. Nahum predicts God's judgment of the Ninevites, and Habakkuk speaks of the shadow cast over the middle east by the people who carried out God's judgment on Nineveh. The Babylonians swept the entire middle east in about 11 years and were besieging Jerusalem.

## 2. Habakkuk helps us with today's news. God's ways are often mysterious and misunderstood.

### 1) God's ways are often mysterious. Habakkuk 1:2, 5-6, God does things that are hard to make sense of at the time.

- ✓ His ways were often a mystery to the people in the Bible. (Habakkuk), Moses prayed to go to the promised land; Paul prayed 3 times to have an affliction removed; Jesus prayed to let the cup pass. God is answering our prayers, but it's not necessarily answers we were expecting.

### 2) God's ways are often misunderstood.

- ✓ Misunderstood by the lost world, **Habakkuk 1:11, 15-16**. The real meaning of today's news never dawns on them. Misunderstood by believers; Habakkuk was getting no answers for some time and then when he got answers, they were more disturbing than not getting anything at all!
- ✓ **Habakkuk 1:5**, often, we get no answer because we wouldn't believe it anyway.
  1. Misunderstood because our brains aren't big enough. Part of our problem is limited perspective.
  2. Misunderstood because we think we are God. We approach prayer as if God needs advice or is in need of our good idea.
    - ✓ "We reduce Him to a cosmic bellboy, who is neither very bright, nor very reliable." If God were unkind enough to answer some of our prayers immediately and as we spelled them out, we'd be the very much worse off for it.
  3. Misunderstood because we act like we're the center of the universe, **James 4:3**. The Bible promises that God hears our prayers, but it never says He will obey our orders. We fail to stop and think that God may have something bigger and better in mind.

### 3) Today's news is misunderstood by the best of us Habakkuk 1:2-3. So, we need to come to grips with several things.

1. Today's news is under God's control. He's the Lord of today's news and the nations of the earth, and all authorities are under His sovereign rule. He started today's news; He's in control of today's news and He will end today's news. No event has flamed up in spite of God or left Him astonished or confused. The Babylonians thought they just had a stroke of luck, but, no, it was God who raised them up and used them according to His plan.
  2. Today's news follows God's timetable; it may appear random or accidental, but it's not. Habakkuk didn't see how it all fit or worked out, but looking back, we do, at least better than he did.
  3. Today's news is bound up with God's kingdom. God is not building America or Russia or any other nation; God is building His church in America, Russia, Africa, the Middle East; that's what's really going on.
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