

1

Does God Care About Injustice?

Habakkuk 1—2; 3:16-19

Imagine that you cried out to God about the injustices in our world—the terrorism and trouble in various places—and God responded with the words: “I am going to do something in your days that you will not believe. I’m raising up the nation you most distrust to sweep across the whole earth to seize dwelling places not their own.” What would be your response?

GROUP DISCUSSION. Spend some time talking about current world events. Make a list of countries that could be considered your country’s enemy. Talk about some of the things that these countries have done that would make them supposed enemies. What would be the general response if God declared that these “enemy” countries were sent to punish your nation?

What are some ways that hatred or fear of an enemy might lead a nation into self-righteousness?

PERSONAL REFLECTION. Do you ever feel like God doesn’t care about the injustice in your life or in the world around you? How do you respond when you feel this way?

In this passage, Habakkuk gets that kind of message from God. Habakkuk had viewed Babylonia (now Iraq) as the incarnation of evil. He was not prepared, therefore, when God announced that the Babylonians would be used to judge his nation. *Read Habakkuk 1:1—2:1.*

1. What was Habakkuk's cry and complaint (1:2-4)?

2. Look at the Lord's answer (1:5-11). Imagine you are Habakkuk. What would it be like to hear these words?

3. How did Habakkuk reply to God's answer (1:12—2:1)?

4. *Read Habakkuk 2:2-20.* In verse 2 God began to explain his answer to Habakkuk. What is the challenge of verses 2-3?

Why must a person have faith in order to meet the challenge?

5. In 2:4-5, what does it mean to be righteous and faithful, and not “puffed up” or arrogant?

6. It is hard to be faithful when we feel threatened by other countries. What are the temptations?

7. Chapter 2 lists five “woes.” State each one in your own words and describe how each consequence is a direct result of the wrong committed.

8. How is the final woe connected to all the rest?

9. Why is it easier for us to see the idolatry of others rather than our own?

10. What are some of your idols?

11. Read *Habakkuk 3:16-19*. What was Habakkuk's conclusion about God?

12. How can his conclusion sustain us during times of turmoil and injustice?

Prayerfully consider how God regards your country. What are some items of prayer that can bring you closer to God's heart?

Now or Later

Read *God's Long Summer* by Charles Marsh for an overview of the events and religious views that lead to the political upheaval of 1964. The book focuses on five figures, from civil rights activists to a Ku Klux Klan leader.