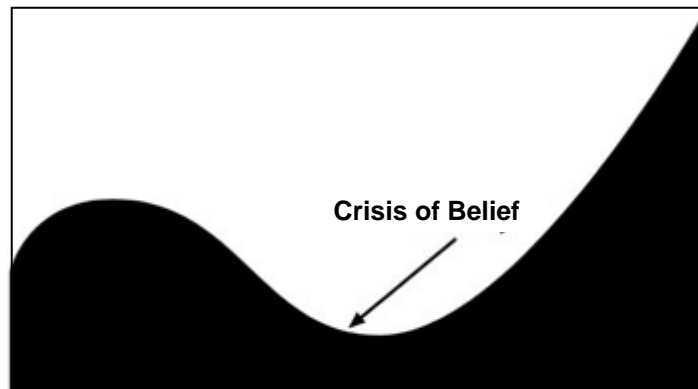


Habakkuk

WHEN GOD SEEMS UNFAIR

Message One: *Where Are You, God?*
Pastor Mike Chapman

A crisis of belief moment is when we come upon life situations and circumstances that cause us internal conflict. It is when what we see conflicts with what we believe. Such moments create tension and produce questions that cannot be answered. They put us in a dip. Will we press on or will we shrink back? That is the critical issue.



For the next three weeks, we are to listen to the words of a man, a prophet, who was in a dip. His is an example for each of us in a crisis of faith moment.

ANNOYED BY GOD'S INDIFFERENCE

Habakkuk 1:1-4, This is the message Habakkuk the prophet received. LORD, how long must I ask for help and you ignore me? I cry out to you about violence, but you do not save us! Why do you make me see wrong things and make me look at trouble? People are destroying things and hurting others in front of me; they are arguing and fighting. So the teachings are weak, and justice never comes. Evil people gain while good people lose; the judges no longer make fair decisions. (NCV)

Habakkuk has a two real problems with God.

God, you don't seem to **care**.

God, you aren't doing much when you **could**.

ASSURED OF GOD'S INTERVENTION

Habakkuk 1:5, *Look at the nations! Watch them and be amazed and shocked. I will do something in your lifetime that you won't believe even when you are told about it.* (NCV)

Oh, yes, Habakkuk, I am about to intervene!

Wow! Something amazing is about to happen! It's so great that he will not even believe it when he is told! Yeah!!!!

Habakkuk 1:6-11, *I will use the Babylonians, those cruel and wild people who march across the earth and take lands that don't belong to them. They scare and frighten people. They do what they want to do and are good only to themselves...They attack quickly, like an eagle swooping down for food. They all come to fight. Nothing can stop them. Their prisoners are as many as the grains of sand. They laugh at kings and make fun of rulers. They laugh at all the strong, walled cities and build dirt piles to the top of the walls to capture them...They are guilty of worshiping their own strength.*" (NCV)

Problem #3: God, what you're doing isn't **fair**.

PERPLEXED BY GOD'S RESPONSE

Habakkuk 1:12-13, *LORD, you live forever, my God, my holy God. We will not die. LORD, you have chosen the Babylonians to punish people; our Rock, you picked them to punish. Your eyes are too good to look at evil; you cannot stand to see those who do wrong. So how can you put up with those evil people? How can you be quiet when the wicked swallow up people who are better than they are?* (NCV)

Fact: A deeply committed believer can express simultaneous **questions** and **faith**.

Habakkuk remembered God's **promises** and God's **character**.

He also questioned how God's actions were **consistent** with his promises and his character.

At his crisis of belief, he **leaned** into the **dip**.