

**A Prophet Perplexed Over God's Plan
"What's Up, Lord?"
(Habakkuk 1:1-11)**

Introduction

Thesis: I want you to consider with me two simple lessons to follow from the experience of the prophet in perplexing times.

I. Share your _____ with God (1:2-4).

II. Marvel at the _____ of God (1:5-11).

Conclusion

Text: Habakkuk 1:1-11

The oracle which Habakkuk the prophet saw.

²How long, O LORD, will I call for help,
And You will not hear?

I cry out to You, "Violence!"
Yet You do not save.

³Why do You make me see iniquity,
And cause *me* to look on wickedness?
Yes, destruction and violence are before me;
Strife exists and contention arises.

⁴Therefore the law is ignored
And justice is never upheld.
For the wicked surround the righteous;
Therefore justice comes out perverted.

⁵"Look among the nations! Observe!
Be astonished! Wonder!
Because *I am* doing something in your days—
You would not believe if you were told.

⁶"For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans,
That fierce and impetuous people
Who march throughout the earth
To seize dwelling places which are not theirs.

⁷"They are dreaded and feared;
Their justice and authority originate with themselves.

⁸"Their horses are swifter than leopards
And keener than wolves in the evening.
Their horsemen come galloping,
Their horsemen come from afar;
They fly like an eagle swooping *down* to devour.

⁹"All of them come for violence.
Their horde of faces *moves* forward.
They collect captives like sand.

¹⁰"They mock at kings
And rulers are a laughing matter to them.
They laugh at every fortress
And heap up rubble to capture it.
¹¹"Then they will sweep through *like* the wind and pass on.
But they will be held guilty,
They whose strength is their god."

Related Texts:

Isaiah 55:8-9

⁸"For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD.
⁹"For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways
And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Lamentations 3:18-23

¹⁸ So I say, "My strength has perished,
And *so has* my hope from the LORD."
¹⁹ Remember my affliction and my wandering,
the wormwood and bitterness.
²⁰ Surely my soul remembers
And is bowed down within me.

²¹ This I recall to my mind,
Therefore I have hope.

²² The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease,
For His compassions never fail.

²³ *They* are new every morning;
Great is Your faithfulness.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

⁷ Because of the surpassing greatness of
the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from
exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the
flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep
me from exalting myself! ⁸ Concerning this I implored
the Lord three times that it might leave me. ⁹ And He
has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you,
for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly,
therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so
that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰ Therefore I
am well content with weaknesses, with insults,
with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for
Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

1 Peter 5:7

⁷ casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for
you.

Proverbs 16:9

⁹ The mind of man plans his way,
But the LORD directs his steps.

Isaiah 45:5-7

⁵ "I am the LORD, and there is no other;
Besides Me there is no God.
I will gird you, though you have not known Me;
⁶ That men may know from the rising to the setting of
the sun that there is no one besides Me.
I am the LORD, and there is no other,
⁷ The One forming light and creating darkness,
Causing well-being and creating calamity;
I am the LORD who does all these.

Lamentations 3:37-38

³⁷ Who is there who speaks and it comes to pass,
Unless the Lord has commanded *it*?
³⁸ *Is it* not from the mouth of the Most High
That both good and ill go forth?

Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that God causes all things to work
together for good to those who love God, to those who
are called according to *His* purpose.