

WHY COMPLAIN?

“The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet received. How long, O Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, “Violence!” but you do not save? Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds. Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.” (Habakkuk 1:1-4)

Nowadays, every human is busy in his own atmosphere. The business people keep on observing the buy and sell prices of commodities, services, and banking deals. People of different cultures are interacting with one another, men to women or the opposite, seeking welfare. Common people are earning hard for their living and for their children to study in the best school; and young professionals are preparing hard for their future to get the best job, beautiful house, expensive cars, etc.

As we see our own lives, our friend's, neighbor's and relative's lives, we tend to compare and seek for the standard of righteousness; good people deserve good things, good deeds to be rewarded, and wicked deeds to be judged and to face discipline or punishment. But we are discouraged to find that this scale is not only working ineffectively but even it is working in the opposite direction. We find bad quality products sold at high prices and sometimes the good quality are bought at low prices. We see the righteous man passing on a train of suffering; joblessness, sickness, losses and difficult living status, while the wicked are flourishing and not receiving any discipline or punishment for his wrongdoing. Not only that no one stops wicked men for doing evil but, we see them being rewarded, their treasures increasing, their authorities expanding and they are promoted to more honorable positions. Why these are happening opposite to what they ought to be?

King Solomon found the same and spoke about these things: **“Again I looked and saw all the oppression that was taking place under the sun: I saw the tears of the oppressed, and they have no comforter; power was on the side of their oppressors and they have no comforter. In this meaningless life of mine I have seen both of these: a righteous man perishing in his righteousness, and a wicked man living long in his wickedness.” (Ecclesiastes 4:1; 7:15)**

“The righteous men got what the wicked deserve, and wicked men got what the righteous deserve.” This is what King Solomon saw and the same we observe in the world today: Big countries they found no food to feed their people. Wicked leaders they got prosperity and gain more power to oppress their people. Nations are rising against nations, and innocent people are killed violently. We are baffled by the military power of strong nation always successful to subdue the weak nations. Our hearts are grieving from what we see in TV and Satellites; violence, corruption, immorality and wickedness. In this paradox where events are opposite to what they should be, we raise our heads to heaven and ask God, “why?”

Habakkuk was also in the same situation. He was a prophet of God who saw the violence and calamities coming toward the people of God. The enemies were invading and plundering all the cities and the Lord God was silent. Therefore the why of Habakkuk was a question of urgent protest and unwillingness to accept, and refused to believe that God had allowed His chosen people to suffer violence and oppression.

But, God's answer to the first question why was not expected by Habakkuk; God brought the ruthless Babylonians to stop the violence and wickedness of His people. It was a disciplinary action. God put a limit for certain bad practices of His people by bringing one overwhelming power to stop their shameful acts. Yet, Habakkuk's second complaint came forward; **“Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?” (Habakkuk 1:13b)** At this question God answered Habakkuk and was comforted. *(Read Habakkuk Chapters 2 and 3 from your Bible).* The conclusion had brought joy and satisfaction to Habakkuk for God in any situation had the final word. This turned his sorrows into a song of praise.

As evil is growing it turns back to itself and destructs the doer. In spite of all the cruelty and hardship God will bring all violence and wickedness to an end. This promise of God that He will not let injustice prevail at the future is His will. This answer from God gives us inspiration to always do good and not to be enticed by the wickedness around us. **“Although a wicked man commits a hundred crimes and still lives a long time, I know that it will go better with God-fearing men, who are reverent before God. Yet because the wicked do not fear God, it will not go well with them, and their days will not lengthen like a shadow.” (Ecclesiastes 8:12-13).**

The wisdom of God is beyond understanding and His faithfulness is above what we can think about. God is the Lord of love, grace and mercy, as well as justice. God has offered to human kind a solution to their dilemma. God has sent His son Jesus and died on the cross to pay for the sins of men. He rose from the dead on the third day and who ever believes in Him receives eternal life. The cross of Jesus is the grace and the justice of God. Jesus is the fountain of justice and peace that every human needs in this life. Jesus brings into your heart the quietness; not to focus on wars or competition around and not to stumble and misunderstand God who may seem allow wickedness and violence. With Jesus and His written words you will know the secrets of God and how He is moving to bring things in the way He wanted to be. You neither be questioning like Habakkuk nor bewildering like Solomon. You neither be complaining nor asking God, “why?”. The Lord God Almighty is justice and faithful to His words and promises.

Father God in heaven: Please forgive me my sins and groaning. Today I focus on the cross of Jesus, the fountain of peace, the answer to all my questions and the solution to my problems. Help me Lord to diligently read and understand Your word; and to feel your loving and warm embrace. Spare my thoughts from the troubles of this world. This is my prayer in Jesus' name, Amen.