

**BOOK OF HABAKKUK**  
**A CHANGE IN PERSPECTIVE**  
**HABAKKUK 2:1-4**

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**Introduction**

**READ THE SCRIPTURE...** We're mostly going to look at *verses 1, 2, and 4*. In the first chapter of this book, we saw how the Prophet Habakkuk was troubled on two different levels.

1. **He questioned why the LORD wasn't doing anything about the wickedness in Judah?** (i.e. Why was the LORD seemingly allowing the wickedness to continue unrestrained!)

**Habakkuk's problem was that God's thoughts and ways were higher than Habakkuk. He was trying to understand eternal things from an *earthly perspective*!** He was a finite being questioning an infinite God! God doesn't answer to man...man must answer to God! But God was gracious to answer Habakkuk!

To answer that question, the LORD showed Him a bit about what was coming! The LORD was going to bring the Chaldeans (a/k/a the Babylonian Empire) to bring about judgment to His people!

Well to Habakkuk's finite mind, that only carried Habakkuk's confusion to a whole different level! So, Habakkuk took his questioning of God to a whole different level!

2. **He questioned why the LORD was going to use a nation that was more wicked than Judah to judge Judah.** That really didn't make sense to the Prophet! He was trying to add these two things together and to him it just wasn't adding up! It was like some sort of new math!

We left off last week by just reading *vs. 1 of Chapter 2* with **Habakkuk waiting on the LORD and he appears to be expecting a rebuke from the LORD when the answer comes.**

Understand that the LORD, at this point, had not judged Judah's wickedness. Habakkuk was experiencing a problem that many in the Church experience even today—When it comes to the things of God **we need a different perspective. We have all been guilty at times of view things through our earthly, carnal vision rather than through the Spiritual eyes of faith!**

We need to understand that **Spirituality and carnality DO NOT mix**—just like water and oil do not mix! The Apostle Paul said:  
*Romans 8:7 – “Because **the carnal mind is enmity against God**: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”*

**That is why a lost world doesn't get God's ways!**

*1 Corinthians 2:14–“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”*

**One cannot decipher Spiritual things with a carnal mind!**

However we Believers have **an additional perspective available to us:**

*1 Corinthians 2:15-16–“15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. 16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? **But we have the mind of Christ.**”*

The way we view any situation is **dependent upon the perspective** we use! We know that to be true! **Sometimes the things that we see are only seen in partial context and we make judgments about what we see in that partial context. Then we see the full context and it changes our perspective!**

**Our perspective will influence the way we see things.** One of my great challenges as a pastor is saying things clearly so that people understand what I'm saying! I know what I want to convey, but some people often hear something quite different than what I intended.

(Sometimes it is like this, *“I know you understand what you think I said, but I'm not so sure that what you heard is exactly what I meant to say!”*)  
That's true because often **we have different perspectives!**

This was Habakkuk's problem. He wanted and expected the LORD to revive His people and wake them from their spiritual sleep. We've seen him cry out to the LORD to the point of even questioning Him and accusing Him of inactivity. **But the LORD's revelation of His future intervention doesn't ease Habakkuk's problem, it only adds to His confusion!**

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**And that had to do with his perspective!**

Sometimes we long for a display of God's intervention and power in the present circumstances in our dear country. We want God to display His hand to prove to us He is working in our situations, but when He does display His hand and it's not like we expect, we want to question the LORD's ways of doing that! (Can I get a witness?)

We need to go back and be reminded of Gideon in the book of Judges. Gideon put out a fleece asking the LORD to prove He would use him to save Israel by his hand. (After the LORD already said that He would do so!) And when the LORD answered by the fleece, he put out another fleece just to make sure that first one was of the LORD! Basically, he questioned the LORD's Word... TWICE! (*Judges 6:36-40*)

**God has told us so much in His Word of what He is going to do! Amen!**  
**And then sometimes we have the audacity to question the LORD about His Word rather than just take Him at His Word!**

**We too want God to prove that He is going to do what He said He will do!**  
We want Him to prove that He is aware and working on our behalf. And He is just wanting us to trust Him and take Him at His Word!  
*Romans 8:28—"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."*

So, after posing the second question to the LORD, listen to what the Prophet says in *2:1*.

**Now, we don't like waiting do we! But the LORD tells us to wait on Him!**  
**God is not under any obligation to do things in the time that we expect!**  
But God's timing is impeccable every time! (*e.g. Many Biblical examples!*)  
And we can get in a heap of trouble when we choose NOT to wait on Him!

*Psalm 27:14—"Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD."*

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*Psalm 37:7—"Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass."*

*Psalm 37:34—"Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it."*

*Psalm 40:1—"I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry."*

Now, we're not told, but there was probably some interval of time that elapsed between *2:1* and *2:2*. We are not told how long Habakkuk had to wait. He only records his determination to wait for an answer! **Sometimes the LORD tests our determination!** We don't know how long the LORD tested Habakkuk here!

**So at this point we find the Prophet waiting and trusting the LORD for an answer! And the LORD did answer Him in the LORD's time!** In this lesson Habakkuk was about to receive—he would **learn the importance of having a *Spiritual perspective!***

**He turned to God in his moment of perplexity and he sought the LORD and believed that the LORD would answer his petition!** Let me pause here to remind you that **God rewards faithful seekers.** We read in *Hebrews 11:6* that *"...He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."*

All too often some Believers are prone to quickly abandon what the LORD has revealed to us about Himself when problems come knocking on our front door! **We get perplexed about what in the world is happening and that's because we live in this sinful, finite flesh and God's perspective is at a much higher level than ours!**

Problems come and instead of drawing closer to the LORD for comfort, grace, and guidance, **and trying to gain His perspective**, many push God off and abandon their service and worship of Him! (*i.e. They respond to God from a lower perspective rather than reaching for the LORD's higher perspective!*)

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In Habakkuk's time of perplexity, he refused to waiver. He poured out His heart to the LORD and then he waited and **stood his watch!** This is a picture of Habakkuk's expectation from the LORD! Even though Habakkuk was expecting to be reproved by the LORD – **he stood his watch!** Even not knowing when the answer would come – **he stood his watch!**

Notice that the prophet removed himself from the wicked and **got above what was happening around Him!** It was necessary for him to have a **different perspective.** He placed himself in an elevated position physically and, I believe, spiritually as well! He moved from the midst of the problem and placed himself above it.

He set himself upon a tower of which the Psalmist spoke of the LORD as being his tower! *Psalm 18:2 – The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.*

*Psalm 61:3–“For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.”*

Even Solomon said:  
*Proverbs 18:10–“The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.”*

A physical tower gives one a **higher and wider perspective** of things that one cannot see when at ground level! If the LORD is our strong tower spiritually, **He wants us to run to Him to gain His perspective that we cannot see while we are in the midst of our problems!**

**It is only when we remove ourselves from the midst of the problem and run to the LORD that He can change our perspective!** When we are in the midst of the problem, we can become so overwhelmed by our problems that we can't see God working!

When we can look down on our problems from a **higher perspective—God's perspective—they tend not to look as bad!**

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So most of the time we just need to simply **learn to change our perspective by running to our High Tower!**

**Habakkuk shows His confidence in the LORD in waiting for Him to respond with an answer.**

**The LORD is about to challenge him to move beyond his limited understanding. And the LORD wants us to do the same thing!**  
*Proverbs 3:5-6–“5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”*

**“heart” = “intellect, emotions, and will.”**

**“understanding” = “understanding” or “reasoning”, if you will.**

**“ways” = “a road; a course of life or mode of action”**

**“direct” = “make straight”**

**Never seek to be independent of the LORD!** We must consider all of our perplexities through the **perspective of the LORD** and not man! So, therefore, our thoughts must be elevated beyond our limited understanding! We must acknowledge the LORD and simply trust Him for guidance and direction.

**Remember that no matter what we are faced with there are always two perspectives.** There is *our perspective* and there is *God's perspective.*

When we **forsake our perspective** and **embrace God's perspective**, we can learn to just simply trust the LORD whatever our circumstances may be!

When we are crying out with our complaints like Habakkuk, we are viewing the situation through **our perspective!** That's OK, God is patient with us!

Then when the **LORD speaks to us through His Word by His Holy Spirit about our situation, He encourages us to respond and behave in a God-like fashion! That is when we can begin to see the situation through God's perspective!**

**Note the importance given to what God says in Vs. 2 !**

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This phrase denotes the importance and serious nature of what is being said because the LORD wanted this to be preserved and passed on! It reminds us of what the LORD told Moses about the inscription of the Law in *Deuteronomy 27:8* – “*And thou shalt write upon the stones all the words of this law very plainly.*”

**The implication here is that there is much gravity in what God is about to say.** This is of absolute importance. It is essential that not only Habakkuk but people at large be aware of what God wants them to know and recognize the severity of what is about to transpire.

**God reminds Habakkuk in *Vs. 4* that the JUST...(i.e. the RIGHTEOUS remnant) will not be abandoned.**

**We began our Spiritual life by grace through faith! And whatever comes our way we are to live the same way—by grace through faith!**

That simply means that **we are able to live in the midst of perplexity and even frustration by trusting in the fulfillment of the promises of God, even when our understanding of what God is doing may be lacking!**

**Conclusion**

So, how are you seeing what’s going on right now? (I’m talking about both in your life and in the world!) If you are perplexed, maybe what you need is *a change in perspective*. Why not ditch that faulty, *worldly perspective* and trade it for *the LORD’s perspective*!

Our God is still the SOVEREIGN LORD of the universe—that includes everything that is happening in our lives and around us! And He has everything under control even when things look out of control!

And as we trust Him fully with all our heart and lean not unto our own understanding, but rather acknowledge Him, He will direct our paths!

And listen! He will do what He says He will do in His Word! We can count on it!