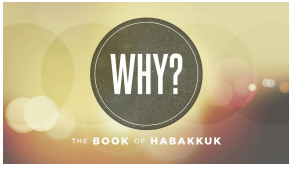


Calvary Lutheran Church

Dallas, TX

Bible Study **Fall 2023**

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Lesson Two – The Book of the Prophet Habakkuk – Chapter 2

Hook

The solution to a problem isn't always obvious... and sometimes, it's counterintuitive! As a group, come up with a solution to each of the problems below – but it can't be the obvious solution; it must be counterintuitive:

1. A few years ago, the staff of a German senior center was facing morale issues because their Alzheimer's patients frequently fled the center during episodes of agitation from memory loss. They would get on the nearest bus and ride it until they were hopelessly lost, and attempts to stop them from leaving the home often resulted in ugly confrontations.

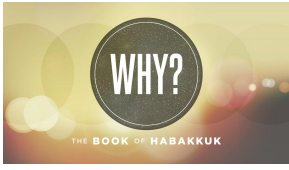
Solution:

2. Many people would assume that news of a Starbucks opening a shop in town would forecast the end of independent coffeehouses in the area. Certainly, Starbucks has the potential to take business away from nearby coffee shops. But one coffeehouse owner refused to throw in the towel when he heard Starbucks was entering his neighborhood.

Solution:

3. Babylon has over-run the nation of Judah, in part as a reaction to the unfaithfulness of Judah. The magnitude and fierceness of Babylon is no match for Judah and the fulfillment of God's promises of a Savior from Judah appear in jeopardy.

Solution:



Book

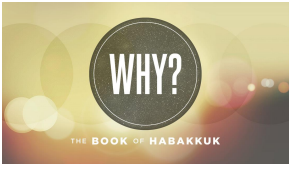
Superscription (1:1)

- I. The Prophet's Perplexities and God's Explanations (1:2-2:20)
 - A. First Perplexity: How Can God Disregard Judah's Sin? (1:2-4)
 - B. First Explanation: God Will Judge Judah Through the Chaldeans (1:5-11)
 - C. Second Perplexity: How Can God Employ the Wicked Chaldeans? (1:12-2:1)
 - D. Second Explanation: God Controls All Nations According to His Purposes (2:2-20)
 - 1. Preliminary instructions (2:2-3)
 - 2. Guiding principles (2:4)
 - 3. Specific applications (2:5-20)
 - a. The case of the Chaldeans (2:5)
 - b. The first woe: The plundering Chaldean will be despoiled (2:6-8)
 - c. The second woe: The plotting Chaldean will be denounced (2:9-11)
 - d. The third woe: The pillaging Chaldean will be destroyed (2:12-14)
 - e. The fourth woe: The perverting Chaldean will be disgraced (2:15-17)
 - f. The fifth woe: The polytheistic Chaldean will be deserted by his idols (2:18-20)

Understanding the Message

A. 2:2-3

- 1. Here, alone, Habakkuk says _____.
- 2. Directions:
 - a. What makes it obvious this is important? _____.
 - b. What do you make of the rest of the LORD's directions?
Either these words describe: _____.
Or they describe: _____.
- 3. FOUR characteristics of the LORD's prophecies:
 - a. _____.
 - b. _____.
 - c. _____.
 - d. _____.



B. 2:4,5

1. A contrast: _____
 - a. Babylonian arrogance _____

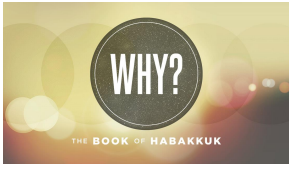
 - b. THEME VERSE: _____
“Faith” or “faithfulness”? _____
“righteous by faith” (Romans 1:17 and Galatians 3:11)? _____
OR “will live by faith” (Hebrews 10:38)? _____
This verse is the ultimate answer to Habakkuk (and our) questions of “why” ... the LORD says:

_____!
 - c. Babylon is intoxicated: _____ OR

C. Rebellion or arrogance against the LORD doesn't pay! Notice that the conversation changes... the LORD is no longer speaking to _____, but directly to _____.

1. The first woe: The plundering Chaldean will be despoiled (2:6-8)
 - a. What is the “sin” the LORD condemns in these verses? _____
 - b. What do you find relevant about the illustration of “debt”? _____
2. The second woe: The plotting Chaldean will be denounced (2:9-11)
 - a. What is the “sin” the LORD condemns in these verses? _____
 - b. What effective figure(s) of speech do you read in these verses? _____
3. The third woe: The pillaging Chaldean will be destroyed (2:12-14)
 - a. What is the “sin” the LORD condemns in these verses? _____
 - b. What contrast does this verse make between earthly kingdoms and the LORD's? _____

4. The fourth woe: The perverting Chaldean will be disgraced (2:15-17)
 - a. What is the “sin” the LORD condemns in these verses? _____
 - b. How is this woe an answer to Habakkuk's complaint? _____
5. The fifth woe: The polytheistic Chaldean will be deserted by his idols (2:18-20)
 - a. What is the “sin” the LORD condemns in these verses? _____
 - b. Why is this the harshest of the LORD's accusations? _____



Look

1. What is the significance of “writing this down”?

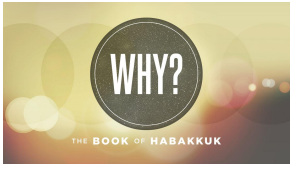
2. The LORD told Habakkuk and Judah to “wait”. For what does the New Testament Church wait? Why is waiting difficult?

3. Give examples of people in either the Old or New Testament who exemplified “the righteous shall live by faith”:

4. 2:5 refers, in Hebrew, to *Sheol*. Relate what you know about this enigmatic Hebrew word:

5. Why would the LORD teach such a taunt to the people of Judah through the prophet Habakkuk?

6. Which of the five “woes” spoke most clearly or impactfully to you? Why?



Took

1. We have a complete written copy of what the LORD wants us to know about ourselves, about Him, and about our salvation. List THREE ways we could better make use of that written record:

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

2. What does the “arrogance” of the Babylonians look like in the context of 2023? What *might be* frightening about your answer?

3. The passage, “the just shall live by faith” caused an explosion in Luther’s theology. Why did that verse have such an impact on Luther?

4. Below are four various aspects our life. Think of a specific situation (either real or imagined) for each category in which someone is experiencing the kinds of difficulties that cause them to ask “why”? Then, apply the “theme verse” of Habakkuk to each situation:

FINANCIAL _____

MEDICAL/HEALTH _____

SPIRITUAL _____

EMOTIONAL _____

5. Why would the LORD teach such a taunt through the prophet Habakkuk? What place might it have today?
