

Unanswered Prayer and the Problem of Evil in Habakkuk

How many times have you uttered the questions: “*What is this world coming to?*” or “*Lord, how can you let this happen? How can you let this go on?*” You aren’t alone. Habakkuk was asking God the same questions in the Bible. Study Habakkuk 1:1-17 with *Groundwork* as we seek biblical answers for the questions about unanswered prayer and about the problem of evil that plague many of us today.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we’ll cover in the episode.

- Have you ever read the book of Habakkuk? What do you already know about this short, Old Testament book?
- Think about a time when you’ve watched or read the news and wondered, “*What is this world coming to?*” or “*Lord, how can you let this happen? How can you let this go on?*” What feelings were you experiencing? Did you seek answers to your questions? Did you do anything as a result?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Unanswered Prayer and the Problem of Evil in Habakkuk](#)

READ [Habakkuk 1:1-17](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- When you have questions about God, where do you turn first? Where did Habakkuk turn?
- Is God your talisman, your good luck charm? Do you listen to what he has to say only when it benefits you or do you abide by the laws you don’t like as well?
- Do you ever catch yourself trying to protect God’s image when bad things happen? How does that affect your faith? Has God asked you to do this? What HAS God asked you to do?
- In segment 3, host Dave Bast said, “*I think in this he [Habakkuk] shows us the way of faith, which is to hold onto both things: God, I don’t understand You; I can’t You figure out, but I still believe in You.*” What biblical stories and life experiences encourage you as you seek to hold onto both of these truths?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Psalm 14](#), [Genesis 50:15-21](#), [Acts 2:14-41](#), [1 Peter 5:6-7](#), [Psalm 55](#)

CONCLUSION

Reflect on this prayer from John Calvin's commentary on Habakkuk. Try rewriting this prayer and placing it in your Bible for future reference, or sharing it with someone who you think might benefit from it.

Grant, Almighty God, that since thou settest around us so many terrors, we may know that we ought to be roused, and to resist the sloth and tardiness of our flesh, so that thou mayest fortify us by a different confidence: and may we so recumb on thine aid, that we may boldly triumph over our enemies, and never doubt, but that thou wilt at length give us the victory over all the assaults of Satan and of the wicked; and may we also so look to thee, that our faith may wholly rest on that eternal and immutable covenant, which has been confirmed for us by the blood of thy only Son, until we shall at length be united to him who is our head, after having passed through all the miseries of the present life, and having been gathered into that eternal inheritance, which thy Son has purchased for us by his own blood. Amen.

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Printed on July 4, 2026