

At the start of the Reformation of the Church in Scotland in 1557, John Knox wrote to his congregation before going into exile and said,

“You are bishops and kings; your wife, children, servants, and family are your bishopric and charge. Of you it shall be required how carefully and diligently you have instructed them in God’s true knowledge . . .

And therefore I say, you must make them partakers in, exhorting, and in making common prayers, which I would in every house were used once a day at least.”

Let’s Worship God

17th-22nd November 2014
Habakkuk



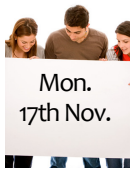
Let's Worship God is a ministry of



Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church

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Family worship, a joy to be experienced every day!



Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

Are you not from everlasting,
O Lord my God,
my Holy One?
Habakkuk 1:12a

reading notes

Habakkuk 1:1-11; Jeremiah 5:1-5 - Judgement

We are going to be studying Habakkuk using notes by Mr. Gary Gunn. The prophet Habakkuk lived during the greatest decline that Judah had experienced. The state of God's people had degenerated gradually, sometimes turned around by faithful kings like Hezekiah or Josiah, but by the time Habakkuk and Jeremiah were called it was terminally bad. God actually asks Jeremiah (5:1) to search the whole of Jerusalem and see if he can find even one righteous man! In God's eyes the whole nation had fallen so low that judgement was the only remedy. He tells Jeremiah that the 'sins of Judah are written with an iron pen, with the point of a diamond', in other words they are stark and permanent.

This must have been hard for Habakkuk, knowing that judgement was certain. Maybe he wanted revival, maybe it pained him thinking that with warnings like these the people would obviously change, but it seemed to get worse and worse.

But God has a purpose, even when the stream of His plan is dark, murky, and mysterious. He will come and shake Judah, take her to Babylon, and show through it all that He is still Glorious, Gracious, and the God of Salvation. It is natural to question God in such a situation, and we might wonder why we were not born during a time of great blessing, rather than a time when there is a great falling away. But like Habakkuk, we will see that even through unbearable judgement- we can find the Lord and trust that what He is doing is good, and He is working towards a restoration for His faithful people. God often lets a situation degenerate to unimaginable levels- to bring about a more long term restoration. As Habakkuk discovers - judgement is God's strange work- but He is still gracious.

questions

1. During what time does Habakkuk live?
2. How does God use judgement?

praise pray

Ps. 78A:13-18

1. Give thanks that God always has a purpose.
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
3. Give thanks for Cathie Miller.
4. Pray for family matters.



Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

Are you not from everlasting,
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Habakkuk 1:12a

reading notes

Hab. 1:7-11; Jer. 23:1-7 - God Uses Calamity to Bring True Deliverance

notes

The world is unstable, and though much of it is kept under control by God, when He lets mankind develop without Him their actions and ambitions can be ruthless. The Babylonian attack will be brutal and destructive. But God, amazingly for His people, will channel the destructive power of the world for a greater and glorious end. We must remember that God is judging Judah here with a view to salvation at the end of it. God does these things with the church in mind, He brings the gold into the furnace to purify it! God says beautifully in Jeremiah's prophecy that the faithful will return from Babylon saying 'THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS' and that they will say "'as the LORD lives who brought us up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from the countries where I had driven them' And they shall dwell in their own land." He is doing this to restore a better Judah!

The unbelieving world is opposed to Christ's kingdom, just as Babylon was (v5-11). They may be intimidating, they may be aggressive and scoff at the stronghold of the church (v 10-11), yet it is a call for us to trust in God and to return more wholeheartedly to Him. If we run to God in this situation, He will show us that the battle is His, and that He has a purpose in bringing it into our lives.

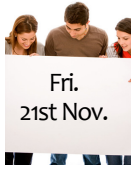
questions

1. What is the purpose of the Babylonian captivity?
2. Who is in control of all things?

praise pray

Ps. 79:7-12

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
3. Give thanks for Billy Redmond.
4. Pray for family matters.



Fri.
21st Nov.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

Are you not from everlasting,
O Lord my God,
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Habakkuk 1:12a

reading notes Habakkuk 1:5-11 - Judgement

The Babylonian armies and king were in God's hand, and He is about to use them to invade and capture the land. He tells Habakkuk that He must now bring a judgement.

Habakkuk sees this judgement is going to come suddenly and quickly, the Babylonians are a 'hasty nation' (v6) and their horses are swifter than leopards (v8). And God can work in such a sudden way - Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 'when they say peace and safety, suddenly destruction shall come upon them'. Christ warned us that He comes 'like a thief'. God can act extremely quickly in nations and churches, so suddenly we can barely believe it when it comes.

God continues to describe the people who are coming to judge Judah. They will come for violence (v9), they scoff at lesser kings, and gather captives (v10), they overthrow strongholds easily (v10), and when they do all of this they ascribe it to their gods (v11), if they have no gods, they ascribe it to themselves.

questions

1. How is God going to use the Babylonians?
2. How will the Babylonian army act?

Ps. 79:1-6

praise pray

1. Give thanks for your salvation.
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
3. Give thanks for Andrew, Heather, Caitlin, Calvin, Catherine, and Campbell Quigley.
4. Pray for family matters.



Tue.
18th Nov.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

Are you not from everlasting,
O Lord my God,
my Holy One?
Habakkuk 1:12a

reading Habakkuk 1:1 - A Prophet Burdened

notes The opening of the book says that this is the 'burden' or oracle which Habakkuk saw. When prophets received a message from God it was often a burden to them, and weighed heavy on them. This was true even of Jesus, when He knew God would destroy Jerusalem.

This is true of us as Christians and our ministers who are burdened by the Word of God and by the message of the Gospel. When they must preach that God will separate the sheep from the goats, and that men and woman must all appear at the judgement seat of Christ, this is a great burden, and we should pray for them to be given grace to speak in God's name like Habakkuk did.

We may be burdened in seeing God judging our own nation or in longing for the conversion of those we know in our families and in our lives. Paul said in Romans 9:1-2 that he was in continual sorrow for the conversion of his countrymen the Jews. We should take encouragement that when we carry these burdens we can go to God and pray over them, and He will help us carry them.

Habakkuk carried this message as a burden, because it showed the Lord's hand was coming in severe judgement. Jeremiah found it hard proclaiming his message and admits that he began to keep it in, because no one was listening to him. But he said it was like a fire in his bones, and he became weary of holding it in. It built up inside him, and it was not until he spoke God's Word that it was lifted. If we are witnessing for Christ, we may become so tired of the message being rejected that we hold back Christ's claim as Lord and Judge over the sin of our land. In the end the burden will become so heavy that we must speak it, and He promises that He will give us the words to say and even give us His peace. Habakkuk was burdened but in the end he found peace.

questions 1. How can we pray for our ministers?

praise pray Ps. 78A:19-24

1. Pray for the salvation of family and friends.
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
3. Give thanks for Charles, Dorothy, Jessica, and Ethan Muir.
4. Pray for family matters.



Wed.
19th Nov.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
Are you not from everlasting,
O Lord my God,
my Holy One?
Habakkuk 1:12a

reading Habakkuk 1:1-4 - How Long?

notes This is a very real question that Habakkuk feels, 'How long shall I cry, and You will not hear?' He is crying out to God to intervene in the situation in Judah and feels that his prayers are going nowhere. This happens to all believers, though we know in our head that God hears spiritual prayer, when we see no obvious answer we can feel very alone and discouraged. It seems to us as though God is not hearing us.

The Psalms we sing show that this is common to God's people, they often ask 'How long?'. We are encouraged by Christ to persevere in prayer, because God often delays His answer to teach us to pray, to expand our faith, to bring us closer to Him. In Luke 18 He says that we ought 'always to pray and not lose heart' and gives the example of a woman who keeps asking an unjust judge to help her. In the end he helps her because she is wearying him! Jesus says if the unjust judge did that, will God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him? These are beautiful words to assure us that God is willing to hear His children. Jesus then says that God 'bears long with them' in prayer. This means that He does not answer right away, but at the right time He answers 'speedily'. Just like Habakkuk, it is not wrong to cry out 'how long?', and we will discover that God is building us up by making us wait.

Habakkuk has this genuine prayer, and God's answer is that He will not intervene but will bring judgement on Judah - and that is final. God has not abandoned Habakkuk's prayer, though He will not spare the people from judgement, He will rather give strength to the believers to be taken through the judgement and upheld. Though God must judge - He will keep His own people safe through it all.

questions

1. Why does God sometimes take time to answer our prayers?

praise Ps. 78A:25-27

- pray**
1. Pray that we would keep persevering in prayer.
 2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
 3. Give thanks for Steven, Sandra, Ethan, and Callum Murray.
 4. Pray for family matters.



Thur.
20th Nov.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
Are you not from everlasting,
O Lord my God,
my Holy One?
Habakkuk 1:12a

reading Habakkuk 1:5-11 - God Announces a Judgement is Coming

notes The LORD promises here that He is about to act in a fearful way and on a national scale. He tells the prophet "Be utterly astounded" v5.

He will inflict upon them an amazing punishment. It will be so astonishing that God says when it is seen, it will not be believed (v5). The reason it will be so severe is because they were such a privileged people - they had the truth of God's Word but had completely abandoned it. In fact they were so sure that they were safe that Jeremiah tells us that even though God was warning the nobility, the priesthood, the princes of the coming judgement - they did not listen. They kept saying 'the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord'. They were oblivious to the seriousness of it all! They gloried in the temple and God's favour to them in the past and thought 'God will not judge us!'

When we are used to things for generations, we foolishly think these things are mountains which cannot be moved. We can say 'The church in Scotland, the church in Scotland', or 'John Knox, John Knox', or 'western comforts, western comforts'. But these things are not so. In 2008, the entire western financial system was rocked to its core by recession.

As the people of God let our only security be our love for Christ and our relationship with God. His judgements may come in large and amazing ways, and like Habakkuk our hope should be in God alone (3:18)

questions

1. How does God say He is going to act?
2. What were the people trusting in?

Ps. 78B:all

- praise**
- pray**
1. Pray that we would trust in God.
 2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
 3. Give thanks for Pauline and Holly Nichol.
 4. Pray for family matters.