



READ: Habakkuk 2:1, 3:16-19 (ESV)

I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower, and look out to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint... I hear, and my body trembles; my lips quiver at the sound; rottenness enters into my bones; my legs tremble beneath me. Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble to come upon people who invade us. Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places.

ENTER THE STORY:

Habakkuk was a prophet for the nation of Israel during a very difficult time. Enemies were swarming all around them, and they were conquering Israel with ease. This confused Habakkuk, because Israel was God's chosen people – the apple of his eye, so he did the only thing he knew to do and cried out to God. He asked him, "How long, LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save?" (Habakkuk 1:2)

God's answer probably took Habakkuk by surprise. Basically, he told him... "Oh, I know what is going on. I see it all, and trust me, it's going to get worse before it gets better." This must have been very difficult to hear... but Habakkuk knew that God was a good and just God, and he knew God had more to teach him, so he marched up to a tall tower and he waited for God to explain.

A lot has changed since the time of Habakkuk, but his cry to God in this passage still rings true for us today. When we see bad things happening to good people, we too wonder why God doesn't act as quickly as we would like. We, too, are waiting for God to avenge the wrongs and redeem our world.

But – don't miss this part – even after receiving news that the worse was yet to come, Habakkuk chose to rejoice in the LORD and be joyful that God was his Savior. What about us? Is God enough for us too?

Could we say if our Christmas tree had no gifts, there was no delicious Christmas dinner waiting, no fun family gatherings ahead, and we were stripped of everything we had, that we would be glad and rejoice in God as our Savior? If all we could claim in this world was Jesus, would having him alone make us happy – or do we have our hearts set on having more?

Oh, may the love of Jesus alone delight us as we peer from our Jesse Tree like a watchman on a tower leaning off the peak, waiting on God to reveal more of himself to us and looking for the only One in all this world who really matters... Jesus, our Messiah and Savior.

PRAY: Lord Jesus, may we always take our confusing and tough questions to you first and wait for your answer. And may we care little for the things of this world but run to the very heights, anxious for your coming... you who are everything to us and more than enough. Forever. Amen.