



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

I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint... I heard and my heart pounded, my lips quivered at the sound; decay crept into my bones, and my legs trembled. Yet I will wait patiently for the day of calamity to come on the nation invading us. Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior.

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 Habakkuk 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)

Unfortunately for Habakkuk, God's answer was not all that comforting. He basically 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 waited for God to explain.

A lot has changed since the time of Habakkuk, but his questions for God in this passage still ring 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 fix the problems and make our world right again.

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 that if our Christmas tree had no gifts, and there was no delicious Christmas dinner waiting or yummy treats in our stockings, 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 only Christ, would having Jesus 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, 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. 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.