

Round Two: But God, that's not fair! Scott Hansen, Lead Pastor August 21, 2011

Lesson Aim: To discuss and apply the idea that God is in control of everything, including the kingdoms of the world, even when His answers confuse us or seem unfair.



connecting

Bridge LifeGroups are currently on summer break. We will continue to offer study questions each week in this more simplified format, which can be useful for personal devotions and/or discussion starters for LifeGroups that choose to meet for a portion of the summer months.

Lesson Aim:

- 1. **Read Psalm Habakkuk 1:12-2:1.** Who are the "treacherous" (NIV translation) and the "more righteous" (1:13)? What is the "net"? (1:14-17)
- 2. What is at the heart of Habakkuk's frustration in these verses?
- 3. When else in history have the righteous been "swallowed up" by the wicked?
- 4. **Read Habakkuk 2:2-20.** Within the context of the book, who is "he" in verses 4-5? How are the righteous to live in contrast to "him"?
- 5. What might "living by faith" have looked like to the people of Judah? What might living by faith look like for us today?
- 6. Compare 2:4 with Romans 1:16-18 and Galatians 3:10-14. How does Paul use this verse to speak to a new generation? What is similar and what is different about Paul's emphasis as compared to Habakkuk's?
- 7. What help are the promises in verses 14 and 20 to you? As you think about the world today? As you think about your personal life?



Close by praying through any needs that were mentioned and however else the Lord leads you.



This **LifeGroup** Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. You can do this homework on your own; however we encourage you to check out our warm and friendly message-based **LifeGroups**! Get a copy of this Study Guide at theBridgeFresno.com by clicking on the "Resources" link.

HABAKKUK

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(Habakkuk 1:12 – 2:20) INTRODUCTION

► Round One: Habakkuk 1:1-11 – God, Aren't You Going To Do Something?

Question/Complaint: vv.2-4God's Answer: vv.5-11

PRINCIPLE A: Sometimes God's answers may confuse you more than your own questions.

▶ Round Two: Habakkuk 1:12-2:20 – But God, That's Not Fair!
◆ (Two-Fold) Question/Complaint – Habakkuk 1:12-2:1

Objection #1: Babylon is way more guilty than Judah

Objection #2: Once Babylon starts destroying, it's game over

● God's Answer: Habakkuk 2:2-20

PRINCIPLE B: God is fully aware of the moral condition of every individual & nation.

PRINCIPLE C: God's options in bringing <u>judgment</u>, <u>discipline</u> or simply getting our <u>attention</u> are limitless.

PRESENT BABYLON

- ► Unbridled arrogance (vv.4,5)
- ► Ungodly desires (v.4)
- ► Given to excesses (v.5)
- ► Restless in doing evil (v.5)
- ► Greedy, never satisfied (v.5)
- ► Use & abuse of others (v.5)
- ➤ Stolen wealth (vv.6,9)
- ► Destruction, murder (v.8)
- ► False sense of security (v.9)
- ► Plotting against others (v.10)
- ➤ Sexual perversity (v.15)
- ► Vain idolatry (vv.18,19)

FUTURE BABYLON

- ► Ridiculed, scorned (v.6)
- ➤ Victimized (v.7)
- ► Plundered (v.8)
- ► Shamed (vv.10,16)
- ► Put to death (v.10)
- ► Fuel for the fire (v.13)
- ► Drunk with judgment (v.16)
- ➤ Disgraced (v.16)
- ► Violently destroyed (v.17)

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Verse 14

LIFE LESSONS FROM HABAKKUK 2

- God holds sovereign control over all people & nations.
 - Habakkuk 2:13,20; Daniel 4:17,25,32; 5:21; Romans 14:12
- God clearly evaluates individuals & nations as either wicked or righteous.
- The righteous person will <u>live</u> by <u>faith(fulness)</u>
- Faith takes the long view of life & history. (Habakkuk 2:14)