



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – March 10, 2022

The Lord be with you.

I'm talking today with the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other. Because well, have you seen the news coming out of Ukraine? It's hard to watch isn't it? Pictures of cities under siege, hospitals being bombed, two and a half million refugees, half of them children who are fleeing, and no one has a clue as to where it's all going.

And so today's news has me again, turning to the Bible, turning to that little power-packed book of a Habakkuk, it's kind of hard to find in the Bible of a Habakkuk comes right after Micah and Nahum. Here it is, we don't hear many sermons from Habakkuk do we, but Habakkuk really sounds a lot like today's news. It's a little book of only three chapters that come with a punch, in which the prophet is complaining to God about what He is seeing in the news. I think of Habakkuk as the original why bad things happen to good people. Habakkuk is a living in Jerusalem about 600 years before Christ. He has a contemporary of Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, Habakkuk is the complaining prophet as he is complaining to God about what He is seeing in the news about injustice, violence, oppression, and then if that's not enough, on top of all of that is the armies of the Babylonians are on the border ready to invade Judah and Jerusalem. It's shock and awe all over it again. And Habakkuk spells out this News in Chapter 1, I just take Verse 13, for instance, as Habakkuk is complaining to God, he says, Your eyes are too pure to behold evil, and you cannot look on wrong doing. Why do you look on the treacherous and are silent when the wicked swallow those more righteous than they. In other words Lord, Why aren't you doing something? It sounds kind of familiar. He doesn't it. I couldn't say it any better myself.

That is the back story. Now, that takes us to a Habakkuk Chapter 2, Chapter 2 Verse 1. I have an underline right here in my Bible, as Saba says, I will stand at my watch post and station my self on the rampart. I will keep watch to see what the Lord will say to me and what he will answer concerning my complaint. And so Habakkuk is complaining to God about what He sees going on in the world, and he's going to wait for how God is going to answer. Habakkuk is using symbolic language. As he compares himself to a Watchmen, he is a watchman who stationed himself on a high tower to keep watch and to listen for what God was going to say to him. How is God going to answer? He's complained about everything he sees going on in the news. Now, it's interesting to me that in the Hebrew text, Habakkuk literally says, I will keep watch to see what the Lord will say in me, what the Lord will say in me. As God will speak not to the outward ear, but he will speak to the inner ear of those who listen. And so Habakkuk is proposing to watch and to wait for God to answer his complaint about what he sees going on in the world.



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Now, you and I, at this time in world events, what we need to be like Watchmen. Gods, Watchmen, who at this time in the world, we will meditate on God's word, we will pray, and we put ourselves in a waiting posture, looking to God expecting an answer from him. That means that we're gonna give God time and we're going to prepare ourselves, prepare our minds and spirits to listen for God's voice to us at this time in world history, because you know God does have something important that he wants to say to you and me, it's exactly what Jesus was talking about when he told his disciples to watch and pray. Stand at your watch post, listen for what God is saying to us at this time in world history, because the world is not listening to a God is saying. The world is just ringing its hands and complaining, but you and I, we are to stand at our watch post, and we are to wait for what God is saying at this momentous time of world upheaval.

Now, what do we do? As we wait and we listen for God's word in us...

Well, Habakkuk tells us what to do in Habakkuk, Chapter 2-4. God says, The righteous live by their faith. You might have heard that before. The righteous live by their faith. The apostle Paul picks up on this very phrase in Romans chapter 1:17... Galatians Chapter 3:11, and the book of Hebrews picks up on it in chapter 10, verse 38. The righteous live by their faith. We do not live by sight, we do not live by our own strength, by our own wisdom, but we live by faith in God. We live by faith in God's faithfulness. That one day, his kingdom will come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. You and I, we are like people living in that Saturday between Good Friday and resurrection morning, and we wait and we listen for God's message for us to give to the world. We live by faith and the faithfulness of God, amidst a world that is not in our control, and a world that is not often make sense to us, but we're going to be Watchmen who listen for God's voice to us and our complaint.

I want to close out today with a prayer for the Ukraine, a prayer are given to our church by my pastor, Reverend Chase Campbell, Sovereign God, who alone can order the unruly wills of humanity intervene and bring an end to the warfare in Ukraine and make leaders submit to your firm hand, that peace might be achieved, and your love known to friend and foe alike. Harbor in your safety, those of your family who service missionaries, pastors are faithful worshippers, bring healing, hope and encouragement to all who suffer and are hurt in this conflict. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

I'm Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thank you for listening. Until next time.