

Difficult Questions

Divine Answers

Studies in the Prophecy of Habakkuk

June 21st, 2020

Difficult Questions...Divine Answers Part 1
When Life Doesn't Make Sense
Habakkuk 1:1-11

How do we respond when faced with difficult situations? Two realities we can learn from this first round of Q&A between Habakkuk and Yahweh, between the believer and His God...

I. REMEMBER _____

A. _____

B. _____

Thinking Biblically about Justice

1. Recognise the fallenness of our world (Romans 3:23, 6:23)
2. Call sin what it is
3. Recognize that it is only God's revelation that alone can define true justice (Psalm 119:7, 13, 20, 30, 39, 43, 62, 102, 106, 108, 120, 137, 156, 160, 164, 175)
4. Direct your complaint to God (Heb 4:16)
5. Engage in the world in such a way that matches with God's self-revelation
 - Seek the good of those around us - Jer 29:7
 - Engage without partiality - Lev 19:15
 - Engage with the aim of peace, not conflict - Rom 14:19
 - Engage with the Gospel - Gal 3:28

II. BE PREPARED _____

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

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MINING THE MESSAGE

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND FURTHER RESOURCES
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In what sorts of situations do the people of God ask 'Why?' and 'How long?' (Pss. 13:1-2; 35:17; 44:24; 74:10; 79:5; 80:4; 85:5; 89:46; Lam. 5:20)

Has the coming of Christ relieved the tension expressed in such questions? In what way ought we to approach God when we do not understand? (Rom. 9:20)

Should we expect to understand all that God is doing? (Deut. 29:29; Job 11:7-9; Prov. 25:2; Isa. 45:15; Matt. 11:25-26; Rom. 11:33-34; 1 Tim. 6:16)

How do rulers affect the standards that prevail in a nation? (Ps. 101:4-8; Prov. 25:5; 29:4, 12, 14; 1 Tim. 2:1-2; 1 Pet. 2:13-14)

Is prayer always answered as we expect? (Jer. 33:3; Matt. 20:21-23; 2 Cor. 12:8-9; Eph. 3:20)

How does Scripture show God's control over all events? (Gen. 45:5-8; 50:20; Pss. 75:6-7; 76:10; Acts 2:23; Rom. 8:28)

What do people give priority to when they rebel against God? (Dan. 5:23; Rom. 1:22-32; Gal. 4:8-9; Col. 3:5; 1 Pet. 4:3)

In the light of the fact of God's purposeful control of all things, how should we respond to the challenges and difficulties we have to face? (Rom. 8:18-25; 2 Cor. 1:3-11; 4:7-18; 12:7-10; Heb. 11:26; 1 Pet. 5:6-10)

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Resources: *This list of resources is designed to address topics raised in the message in more details. The inclusion of the resources here does mean total endorsement of every "jot and tittle" and of course, I encourage you to be a Berean and test all things (Acts 17:11, 1 Thess 5:21) and to pray through the text we've studied, trusting the Lord to grant further understanding*

God and Evil, Mike Riccardi; <https://www.thegracelifepulpit.com/sermons.aspx?code=2019-03-03-MR>

John Piper, Spectacular Sins series

<https://www.desiringgod.org/series/spectacular-sins-and-their-global-purpose-in-the-glory-of-christ/messages>

D.A. Carson, How Long, O Lord? Reflections on Suffering and Evil

https://www.amazon.com/How-Long-Lord-Reflections-Suffering/dp/0801031257/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=how+long+o+lord&qid=1592674192&sr=8-1

John Piper, Suffering and the Sovereignty of God (available as free book or as MP3 messages)

<https://www.desiringgod.org/books/suffering-and-the-sovereignty-of-god>

<https://www.desiringgod.org/series/2005-national-conference/messages>