

Crossroads Baptist Church
September 2, 2007 10:00
Habakkuk 2:1-4
Habakkuk Series #4

“Gaining Fresh Understanding of God”

One of the most popular books is Rabbi Harold Kushner’s book When Bad Things Happen to Good People. The book is an attempt of this Rabbi to make sense of a tragedy in his own family. The Rabbi concludes from the Scriptures that he is “...forced to choose between a good God who is not totally powerful or a powerful God who is not totally good.” He chooses to believe in God’s goodness. He further states that, “God wants the righteous to live peaceful, happy lives, but sometimes even He can’t bring that about. It is to difficult even for God to keep cruelty and chaos from claiming their innocent victims.”

It sounds good but is simply not true. The Bible presents God as both all-good and all-powerful.

The arranging of the circumstances in our life by a sovereign God is what we call the “providence” of God. Providence is God’s constant care for and absolute rule over all His creation for His own glory and the good of His people.

There was another Jew who struggled with the very God who was in control. His name was Habakkuk and he questioned if God was really in control.

Thus, we shall not die because God has made a covenant with His people and promises that He will not go back on.

God has made promises and made covenants with the people of Israel, so He is going to keep His promise.

We need a fresh understanding of God.

A. You and I don’t know everything about God.

You bring everything you know about God into a situation, but some time your previous education is not sufficient.

Habakkuk knew these things about God as we see in 1:12:

1. God is eternal.
2. God is self-existing.
3. God is faithful

4. God is almighty
5. God is holy and pure
6. God is patient.

We must always be learning.

We must experience God as He is, not as we want Him to be or think He is.

Our understanding of God is never complete.

B. We will only learn more through experience.

Acts 1: 1

I want to know you more

Paul Phil

Part of the process is always pain and suffering. Valleys and trials.

Don’t think it strange these fiery trails have come upon you.

Count it all joy.

C. During the testing, remain faithful

What did God tell Habakkuk to do? Watch.

That can be hard.

Hab. 1:5 God told him to “watch” and now again.

D. In all things, remember it’s a walk of faith.

Now abides “Faith, hope and love.”

We are always going to live in dependence on God.