

Recap of 5/6/18 (Hab 1:5-11):

1. Have you ever asked God why? Why is there evil? Why do the wicked prosper while God's people suffer? Why did this happen to me? Why did you heal that person but not this person? Habakkuk is a great book for us when we get into a 'why God?' mood. Charles Ryrie said Habakkuk is "A defense of God's goodness and power in view of the existence of evil." Habakkuk asks God why and is surprised by the answer. As we study this book, I hope we come to the same conclusion he did -- ultimately our why questions only have one satisfying answer. God answers our why questions with Who. Although we may want to know why, it is only the person of God that truly brings comfort and satisfaction. Even when everything seems to be going wrong, we should live by faith; faith in who God is and what He has done for us!
2. In this section, God answers Habakkuk's initial complaint (Hab 1:2-4), but in an unexpected way. God tells Habakkuk that He is doing something about the wickedness of Judah, He is going to use the Chaldeans (Babylonians) to execute His judgment and correction. God often works in ways we would never dream of.
3. Paul quotes Hab 1:5 as he tries to convince the Jews of Pisidian Antioch that God worked in an unexpected way when He sent His son to die on the cross in their place (Act 13:14-43). We must make sure we don't miss God's working just because He doesn't meet our expectations; regarding salvation or the Christian life.
4. God may send Chaldeans into our lives to discipline us; to refine our faith; to accomplish His purposes; or the Chaldeans may be there just because we live in a fallen world. When challenges come, how will we react? Will we rail against God or will we trust in His character and His promises as we live by faith. Habakkuk would have us do the latter.