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God's vision for the nations – Habakkuk

1. A prophet in difficult times

Habakkuk prophesied to the house of Judah some 600 years B.C. A little before Jeremiah.

It was his lot to prophesy in very difficult times. The last kings of Judah had been very wicked men, with the exception of King Josiah, who did what was right in the sight of God. Josiah's grandfather, Manasseh, and his father, Amon, had done evil before God.

His son Jehoiakim also did evil before God. Most of the population sinned openly, and idolatry was practiced throughout the country.

When the rulers of a nation are unjust and corrupt, they open the nation's spiritual doors to evil principalities and powers, and sin and wickedness increase within the society. The nation is left without protection, without a cultural reference point and without models.

2. The prophet's cry for the moral situation of the nation

"How long, LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save?"

Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?

Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict

abounds. Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails.

The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted." Habakkuk 1.2-4

3. Our current situation

We have been praying for our nations for years. It is disconcerting to see the advance of evil.

In our Latin American nations, the corruption of the governing rulers is alarming. The United Nations wants to impose the diabolical and foolish gender ideology on all the nations of the world. The gap between the rich and the poor is scandalous and grows wider all the time. Drug trafficking, often in collusion with the governing rulers, is destroying millions of young people in most of the world's nations. Individualism and

the love of money continue to be the root of all evil.

Many times, just like the prophet, we say: How long, oh God...? How long will we cry out but you do not listen?

Brothers: The worst thing we can do is to simply resign ourselves to this situation, drop our guard and stop praying, stop believing, stop fighting. The worst thing we can do is lose hope.

The prophet Habakkuk did not give up. He kept crying out to God. He almost fought with God. Until he received an answer from God.

4. God's first response

"Look at the nations and watch—and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told. I am raising up the Babylonians, that ruthless and impetuous people, who sweep across the whole earth to seize dwellings not their own." (Habakkuk 1.5-6)

God raised up a pagan nation to punish Judah for her sin.

God's ways are often as strange to us as they were to the prophet.

In geometry the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. But in God, due to human reality, the shortest distance is not always a straight line. To reach the top of the next mountain, one usually has to descend into the deepest valley.

Many times God must take us to the lowest depths and to more intense levels of crisis and suffering in order for us to humble ourselves and turn back to God.

Habakkuk, in light of God's response, was more perplexed than before, but he made...

5. Four wise and fundamental decisions

5.1 The 1st decision: take his place as a watchman

*"I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint."
(Habakkuk 2.1)*

This is determination, persistence and steadfastness. This is not lowering the guard but

preparing to fight.

This is what we must do. We are apostles and prophets. We must take our place as watchmen. We are in a higher place. We see into the distance. We must anticipate and notify the people of that which is to come. We must watch in prayer. Be attentive to God. Cry out, fast, intercede until the answer comes. We need to perceive ahead of the others. We need to hear from God. We do not worship an idol that does not hear nor speak. We worship a living God who hears our prayers and answers prayer. We must cry out and “demand” answers from God.

God likes this kind of prayer! And he answers this kind of prayer.

5.2 Habakkuk's 2nd decision: believe the vision

“Then the LORD replied: Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it.

For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.

See, the enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness.” (Habakkuk 2.2-4)

A positive vision of the future produces hope and enthusiasm in the one who reads it. It motivates and mobilizes him to action. It drives us to run, it generates passion in the pursuit of that vision. This vision launches us into the mission.

The fulfillment of the vision is guaranteed by God.

“For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false.

Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.” (Habakkuk 2.3)

Faith is the key to the fulfillment of the vision.

“See, the enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright— but the righteous person will live by faith.” (Habakkuk 2.4)

This is the grand verse that Paul used to support his thesis on justification by faith, both in Romans and Galatians.

Faith is the response of a humble heart to God's revelation. The opposite is pride. The proud is guided by his reasoning, and doubts the word of God. The humble receives the word of God with meekness. *He whose soul is not upright is proud, but the just shall live by faith.*

What specifically is the vision that God revealed to Habakkuk?

- in the midst of the unjust accumulation of wealth at a personal, national and international level (Habakkuk 2.6-11);
- in the midst of those who conquer and build cities with blood and iniquity (2.12-13);
- in the midst of an eroticized society in which many get drunk and drug the weakest in order to sexually abuse them (2.15-16);
- in the midst of a materialistic society full of kidnappings, robberies and violence (2.17);
- in the midst of nations given over to idolatry (2.18-19)

God gives the prophet Habakkuk a glorious vision that, like a pearl in the midst of so much garbage, summarizes the vision in a single verse:

“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.” (Hb 2.14)

I imagine God saying to the prophet: 'Habakkuk, go to the beach, and stand in front of the sea. Take a good look, do you see how these waters cover the sea? In the same way THE EARTH WILL BE FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF MY GLORY”.

Habakkuk, write down the vision, record it on tablets, so that the one who reads it and believes it receives such inspiration and impulse that he pursues the fulfillment of the mission in accordance with the vision that I have revealed to them.

Chapter 2 concludes with a tremendous declaration:

*“The LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him.”
(Habakkuk 2.20)*

As dire as the situation in our nations may be, let us never lose sight of the

throne: God is in his holy temple!

He is sitting on the throne!

Jesus Christ is Lord!

He was exalted

“above all principality and authority, and power and

dominion, and above every name that is named,

not only in this age, but also in the one to come...” (Ephesians 1.21).

Hallelujah! Everything is under his control!

In the heavens and on the earth.

In the midst of all the calamities described in the book of Revelation (the seven trumpets, the seven woes, the seven plagues, the action of Satan, the false prophet, the great red dragon), the dominant vision is that there is one sitting on the throne and he reigns.

The great message of the Apocalypse is that the final victory belongs to the Lamb, that the kingdoms of this world will belong to our Lord and to his Christ; and that he will reign forever and ever.

The final vision is that of one church, glorious, multitudinous, triumphant and holy; dressed in fine linen, dazzling white and clean, prepared to receive her Beloved. Hallelujah!

Abraham "grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, fully convinced that what God had promised, He was able also to perform." (Romans 4.20-21).

5.3 Habakkuk's 3rd Decision: Pray for revival

“A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet. On

*shigionoth. LORD, I have heard of your fame;
I stand in awe of your deeds, LORD.
Repeat them in our day,
In our time make them known;
In wrath remember mercy.” (Habakkuk 3.1-2)*

Habakkuk not only believed in God's vision, but also prayed for revival. We must transform the vision into prayer, into intercession.

'Revive your work in our time' is the same as saying revive your work in these difficult times. But we must pray with faith, believing that we will receive what we are asking for.

Let us cry out to God for a revival in our nations. A new move of the Spirit working miracles and wonders and the conversion of millions in the different continents of the world.

5.4 Habakkuk's 4th decision: Rejoice in god in whatever the circumstance

*“...Yet I will wait patiently for the day of calamity
to come on the nation invading us. Though the fig tree does
not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the
olive crop fails
and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in
the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD,
I will be joyful in God my Savior.
The Sovereign LORD is my
strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
he enables me to tread on the heights.” (Habakkuk 3.16-19)*

Some consider this to be the most perfect praise in all of the Bible.

Brothers, even more difficult days may come, but we need to make the same decision as Habakkuk. Let us say with the prophet: *"With everything I will rejoice in the Lord, and I will rejoice in the God of my salvation."*

The task is not easy. The days to come will not be easy. We need to live in the joy of the

Lord every day. We will have better physical and mental health if we live with joy. Our wife needs a joyful husband. Our family too. The church needs a joy-filled pastor. The world needs a church filled with the joy of the Lord. Joy will be a magnet that will attract many to the Lord's church. Amen.