

Those Who Guard

6-21-20

Habakkuk 2:1 (ESV)

I will take my stand at **my watchpost**

and station myself on the tower,

and **look out to see what HE will say to me,**

and what I will answer (as HIS mouthpiece) concerning my complaint (against HIM).

Habakkuk was unique among the prophets because he did not speak for God to the people but rather spoke to God about the people. Habakkuk is questioning what God is doing concerning upheavals going on all around him. Appropriate for today as we ask, “LORD what is going on?” **After talking to God about everything that is bothering him, Habakkuk goes to his Watchpost to hear God’s answer.** The word Watchpost literally means, “Those Who Guard” or “obligation to guard”. As “One Who Guards” Habakkuk wanted to know what God was doing! **Thus, he revealed a mature wisdom in his determination that “any response” should be shaped by what God himself would say.** So, he went to his watchpost to listen. **It is a wise man who takes his questions to God and listens to God for the answers.**

God answers by identifying the core issue of the conflict.

Habakkuk 2:4 (ESV)

Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him,

“but” the righteous shall live by his faith.

The phrase “his soul is puffed up” points out the problem which refers to anyone who is proud.

A proud person relies on himself, whereas a righteous person relies on God. It will take faith to wait patiently for God's plan to unfold, and the righteous believe that God will accomplish everything HE said. The phrase "but the righteous shall live by his faith" is **quoted three times** in the NT to emphasize that people are saved by grace through faith (Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11) and that Christians should live by faith (Heb. 10:38–39). This was the verse which prompted Martin Luther to re-examine his own theology in 1517 that initiated the Protestant Reformation. The declaration that "the righteous shall live by faith" exposes the futility of world views without God. **The kind of faith that Habakkuk describes, and that the NT authors promote, is the continuing trust in God and clinging to God's promises, even in the darkest days.** The righteous person trusts in God; he believes that God's promises are true and that HE will bring to pass HIS righteous purposes. All human effort without Christ are like rearranging the chairs on the Titanic. **But like Habakkuk "Those Who Guard" are the ones responsible to stand for the truth of Christ, otherwise our labor is only fuel for the fire!**

Hab.2:13 (NIV)

"Has not the LORD Almighty determined that the people's labor is only fuel for the fire, that the nations exhaust themselves for nothing?"

Who determined that the people's labor was fuel for the fire? The LORD Almighty did! We know the truth; therefore, our actions are dictated by our knowledge.

As “Those Who Guard” our ability to impact our world necessitates that we be in cooperation with God and HIS work. We can do this because we know HIS truth:

Habakkuk 2:14 (ESV)

For the earth will be filled
with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

Therefore, as “Those Who Guard” knowing what is important to God, enables us to make wise decisions. We move toward filling the earth with the knowledge of the glory of God as the waters cover the sea. This cooperates with God’s desires. As “Those Who Guard” we honor God in obedience, worship, and praise. **The world, the nations, and particularly our nation is in extreme danger as we drift away from this truth. God will ultimately reveal HIMSELF with fiery power!**

Psalm 102:15 (ESV)

Nations will fear the name of the LORD,
and all the kings of the earth will fear HIS glory.

“Those Who Guard” know the truth and are in awe!

Habakkuk 2:20 (ESV)

But the LORD is in HIS holy temple;
let all the earth keep silence before HIM.

Yahweh is approached in silence, because we know HIS holiness and majesty. Our realization of our dependency upon God’s grace moves us into total awe.

Psalm 46:10 (ESV)

Be still and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!

As the church, as believers, as God's witnesses to this world, we have knowledge with power. Therefore, because we have this knowledge, we have a certain responsibility to others.

Hab.3:2 (NIV)

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 summarizes his position and our position: We have heard; therefore, we are accountable. We know what the LORD can do; therefore, we are in awe! We also have authority; therefore, we ask God to move in power as HE did in the past. **Who else can ask, but us, who know the truth?**

Therefore, as "Those Who Guard" we declare all the promises of God in which we have knowledge. We always proclaim the greatest truth in which we have knowledge:

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.