

## **When God seems Idle (or “God, are you there? Do you hear me? Do you Care?) Habakkuk 1**

**Context** - Habakkuk lived (somewhere around 630 B.C. - 598 B.C.) during the final days of the Southern Kingdom of Judah and warned of the coming judgment on the nation through Babylon. He was praying hard for the revival of his nation when God answered him with a very unexpected answer.

### **Background -**

1. It is believed that he was a Levite- and perhaps one of the temple singers. “From the liturgical nature of both parts of the book, especially the second part, it has been inferred that he was a cultic prophet on the staff of the Jerusalem Temple—perhaps even one of the temple Singers.” (Bruce 832 Minor Prophets)
2. He grew up in the Southern Kingdom of Judah during the reign of the good king Josiah.
3. He ministered in Judah during the reign of the evil king Jehoiakim. Jehoiakim was charged with injustice, covetousness, murder, oppression, and violence by Jeremiah (Jeremiah 22:13-19).

### **When it seems like God is absent...**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ your frustrations in Prayer (1:1-4) “Oh Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear?”
2. \_\_\_\_\_ where God is at work (1:5-11) God - “Look among the nations and see”

Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones, in his sermons on Habakkuk, developed four maxims about God. that I believe are helpful to us today:

- A. History is under God’s \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. History follows a divine \_\_\_\_\_.
  - C. History follows a divine timetable.
  - D. History is bound up with the divine \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ in faith waiting for God (1:12-2:1)  
God’s answer confuses Habakkuk, but he chooses to place his faith in God - “I will take my stand”