

What will God do about this?

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Introduction: Have you ever wondered why God allows some things to happen?

- A. It is good to see *the true condition* of this world. **(Rom 3:16-18, 23)**
 - 1. Jesus *prepared His disciples* to understand the opposition of the prince of this age and the majority that follows Satan.
 - 2. We should *not be dismayed* when the world hates us. **(Jn 15:18-19)**
- B. We also may be tempted to question God and *try to take His place!*
 - 1. Asaph took the burden that *only God should take!* **(Ps 73:11-13)**
 - 2. He gave that burden back to God when *he saw God in worship!* **(Ps 73:15-17)**
 - 3. What will I do when *dark times* comes upon me and my loved ones?
 - 4. Consider the book of Habakkuk and the answers he sought from God.

I. We do not see things as God does

- A. What did Habakkuk think when he saw his country falling apart? **(Hab 1:1-4)**
 - 1. It is a bad time when *law enforcement and the courts* become corrupt.
 - 2. Even though a righteous law may exist, if moral people are not involved in the enforcement of it then *it becomes powerless.*

“Our Constitution was made for a moral and religious people; it is wholly inadequate for the government of any other.” - John Adams

“But when religion loses its voice and the media worship success, when right and wrong become relativised and morality is condemned as “judgmental”, when people lose all sense of honour and shame and there is nothing they won't do if they can get away with it, no regulation will save us. Markets ... depend on respect for the people affected by our decisions. Lose that and we lose not just money and jobs but something more significant still: freedom, trust and decency, the things that have a value, not a price.” - Jonathan Sacks

- 3. Asaph likewise saw such a mess and so did *those of Jesus' day.*
 - B. What *should God do* about such conditions?
 - 1. God *will always do what is best* for the spread of His word! **(Hab 3:13)**
 - 2. God has shown us time and again that He brings nations up and also *takes them down.* **(Rev 2:26-27)**
 - 3. He gives nations *opportunity to repent* by warning them.
 - 4. There comes a time where a nation *reaches the point of no return.* **(Gen 15:16)**
 - C. Can *we make* a nation repent?
 - 1. Josiah tried to do that. *He failed.* **(Jer 3:10)**
 - 2. God warned His people that their nation had *reached the point of no return.* **(Ezk 14:14, 20-21)**
 - D. Truly *bad things* can happen to the people of God when a nation is judged.
 - 1. God was going to give Israel to Babylon. **(Hab 1:5-7)**
 - 2. Israel was bad but Babylon was worse. This was to be *a terrible time!*
 - 3. Habakkuk wanted to ask God *how He could possibly do this!* He thought that God was contradicting His character! **(Hab 1:12-13)**
 - 4. He also knew that God was perfect and that *it was his thinking that was wrong.* He asked God “Why, God?” and would get an answer! **(Hab 2:1)**

II. What do we need to see when our world falls apart?

A. We need to turn to God with complete confidence in His care. **(1 Pt 5:5-7)**

1. That humbling may be the very thing to produce repentance! Consider Paul.
2. Tragedy may be just what a worldly Christian needs! **(Jas 4:7-10)**
3. Consider the effects of a sudden catastrophe. We see the world anew!

“Even while numbness sets in, something else happens. A mental “window” opens for a period of time that shocks us into an appreciation of our existence in a more poignant way than our everyday awareness allows for. We become more sensitized to the simple beauty of our being alive and the importance of those who matter to us. Suddenly the important things in our lives jump forward in bold relief. The window tends not to stay open for too long, as we slowly drift back into our common mentality.”

4. God declared that the just shall live by faith! **(Hab 2:2-4)**

B. While Habakkuk has resolved his doubts, he knows difficult times are ahead for the faithful.

1. What if you knew this country would fall? When we lose a loved one our world is torn apart! We may face such a day in our individual life.
2. There may come a day where we face our worst fears. **(Hab 3:16-17)**
3. Still there is a joy that no circumstances could remove from the righteous. **(Hab 3:18-19)**
4. This attitude must be in the Christian. **(Micah 7:7-8; Phil 4:13)**

C. How can a child of God overcome the loss of physical things? Remember Asaph!

1. The child of God has resources of nourishment and strength that no man or nation can take away! **(Mal 3:16-18)**
2. What does worship allow us to see? **(Mt 6:33)**
3. There is never a time where the child of God can do nothing. Pray! **(Hab 3:1-2)**

III. How God comforts the Righteous

A. All that God does is for His people. **(Hab 3:13)**

1. The righteous knew that the nation of *Israel existed for a purpose*.
2. They not only knew in advance of the captivity, but how long it would last and that their return would bring the Messiah. **(Zeph 3:19-20; Micah 4:1-3, 9-10)**
3. They knew that God would bring good from the judgments on Israel. **(Zeph 3:8-14)**
4. These principles are also true in individual suffering. God will take care of us! **(Ps 34:15-19)**
5. It is so important that we do not take the road of ease in our serving God!

B. There is the nature of God.

1. Jesus used the past workings of God to give Him comfort on the cross. **(Ps 22:3-5)**
2. God told this remnant how much He loved them! **(Zech 9:16-17)**
3. They knew that waiting on the Lord would bring deliverance to God’s people.
4. We must let God be our rock and deliverer.

Conclusion: Are we ready for the day of adversity? The just shall live by faith!