

Honest Faith | June 7, 2026

READ

Read **Habakkuk 1:1–11** aloud.

Habakkuk looks around at violence, injustice, strife, and he asks God the question many faithful people have asked: **“How long?”**

Then God answers. But the answer is not what Habakkuk expected. God says He is already doing a work, but it will come through the Babylonians, a bitter and violent nation. Habakkuk wanted God to fix the wound, but God’s answer looked more confusing than comforting.

DISCUSS

1. Have you ever had a “didn’t see that coming” moment that shook your faith or changed your life? What made it so disorienting?
 2. Habakkuk does not hide his complaint from God. What makes it hard for Christians to be honest with God about anger, grief, disappointment, or confusion?
 3. God’s answer in Habakkuk 1:5–11 is shocking. Why is it sometimes harder when God answers in a way we would never have chosen?
 4. What might happen if we stopped believing God is absent and trust God may be working in ways we cannot yet see?
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COME AND SEE

- **Lament Speaks Directly to God**

Habakkuk asks, “How long, LORD?” This is not unbelief. It is the language of relationship. You do not cry “how long?” to someone you have stopped expecting to come through.

See also: **Psalm 6:3; Psalm 13:1; Psalm 22:1–2; Revelation 6:10**

- **God’s Answer Can Be More Confusing Than His Silence**

God says, “I am raising up the Babylonians.” Habakkuk asks God to deal with violence and injustice, and God answers by using a nation even more violent and unjust. Sometimes God’s work does not look like healing from where we stand.

See also: **Isaiah 55:8–9; Genesis 50:20; Romans 11:33–36**

- **Silence Is Not Absence**

The turning point is Habakkuk 1:5: **“I am doing a work in your days.”** God’s work was already underway while Habakkuk was still crying out. The silence was not empty. God was moving, even when Habakkuk could not yet see it.

See also: **Exodus 2:23–25; John 11:5–6, 21–27; Romans 8:28**

FOLLOW ME

1. Name Your “How Long?”

Habakkuk gives us permission to bring our honest questions to God.

- Where are you currently asking, “How long, Lord?”
- What prayer has gone unanswered longer than you expected?
- What part of your life feels confusing, unfair, delayed, or silent?

Reflect:

Have you been talking to God about this, or mostly talking about God to yourself or others?

2. Notice Where You Have Gone Numb

Habakkuk says the law is “paralyzed.” The sermon connects this to numbness: the place where pain, waiting, or disappointment has dulled our ability to feel.

- Where have you gone emotionally or spiritually numb?
- What would it look like to bring even your numbness honestly to God?

3. Lament Instead of Grumbling

The sermon makes an important distinction: grumbling talks about God while walking away from Him. Lament talks to God while leaning toward Him.

- Where are you tempted to grumble rather than lament?
- What changes when you bring your complaint directly to God?
- How might lament keep your faith alive in a season of confusion?

4. Trust God's Hidden Work

God says, "I am doing a work." Habakkuk could not see it yet, and he certainly did not understand it.

- Where might God be at work even though you cannot see evidence yet?

GO AND BE

This week, write your own one-sentence "how long?" prayer.

Pray it using this pattern:

Prompt:

Lord, what I need to tell You honestly is _____.

It makes me feel _____.

The part I do not understand is _____.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, teach us to bring You our honest prayers. When You feel silent, help us believe You are not absent. When we cannot understand what You are doing, help us keep turning toward You. Give us faith to say, "How long?" without walking away. Amen.