Wisdom Not Worry
Wednesday, May 13, 2020
Habakkuk 1:5-11

"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..."

Sometimes the only thing more difficult to stomach than seemingly unanswered prayers are answered ones.

Habakkuk unleashed his frustration, pleading with the Almighty to prove He is engaged and just. Habakkuk's lament is answered with a surprising response – "This is going to be hard to believe, but I'm raising up the Babylonians." And just in case Habakkuk missed the latest headlines of Babylon's exploits, God reminds him. God describes them as ruthless, impetuous, thieving, feared, dreaded, lawless, arrogant, violent, mockers equipped with the resources and skill to accomplish any dastardly mission they set themselves to. Habakkuk's circumstances were about to get a whole lot worse!

When life goes from bad to worse, remember these three truths.

First, God Listens. God's silence was beginning to make Habakkuk wonder whether the Lord was hearing his prayers. God's answer to Habakkuk reminds us not only that God hears our prayers but he is already working to answer them. It may be hard to believe, but God hears and is working all things out for our salvation.

Second, God is in control. The strongest, fastest, most feared force, the Babylonian war machine, was under God's control. He raised them up. The heart of even the vilest "is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turns it wherever he will" (Prov. 21:1). It may be hard to believe, but our circumstances are never out of control. They are always under His control.

Third, God cares. God cares about sin and death and violence and corruption and injustice. It may be hard to believe, but he cares even more than you do. He cared enough to raise up the Babylonians to execute judgement on Judah. He cares enough to raise up his Son to suffer judgement *for* us. Be amazed. Be utterly amazed.

Grateful,
Ben