

Habakkuk # 22“National Decline, the Enemy Within”

Habakkuk 2:4-20; Hosea 4:1-6; Romans 1:18-32

Storms in life may appear with or without warning but God always has a rainbow on the other side for those who rely on Him, trusting His promises no matter how bad the circumstances appear.

Why bad things happen to good people is one of Habakkuk's main themes.

You may have been worshipping the Lord for many years, consistently praising Him and praying to Him but what would happen if extreme difficulty comes your way; Do you wonder what you would do?

For many people being knocked to the ground and blinded would be not only a bad thing but a terrible thing but to Saul of Tarsus, it was best thing that ever happened to him!

It was God’s loving discipline that led to Assyria’s capture and destruction of the Northern Kingdom in 722BC.

As history teaches, people easily become complacent, so after Josiah’s death they thought the new era of prosperity would go on forever.

But just like virtually all great societies, the leaders and the people ignore the spiritual reasons for their material prosperity and they became self-seeking, self-absorbed and therefore, arrogantly self-deceived.

Insecure husbands result in insecure wives and insecure parents result in insecure children which leads to an insecure generation that demands security.

In demanding security from the government, an insecure generation becomes an entitled generation.

In the process of socialism by giving false-security to the insecure, human freedom is destroyed and replaced by false promises of blessing by always using enticing words, like “hope and change.”

The wickedness at work in mankind follows a process which ends with the phrase; ‘God gave them over.’

This is what is going on in our society today evidenced by increased sexual immorality in dishonoring the bodies God gave us.

When we worship God, we fulfill our longing to be identified with Him and know Him intimately.

People are easily deceived into thinking they’re going to find worship type fulfillment in sex but it just won't work.

But we must be careful because only the legalistic Pharisee-minded person reacts to societal immorality with self-righteous condemnation.

The humble believer's awe and gratitude for God's grace only increases his compassionate concern for others.

Inside the plan of God, the battle is the Lord's and we win; inside the world system, the battle is ours and we lose.

There are no winners in the world system, just different levels of losers and there are no losers in the experiential plan of God, just different levels of winners.

Weakness becomes strength by choosing for God's plan rather than our own plan and strength becomes weakness by choosing for Satan's world system.

Under the principle of freedom of responsibility, we must be free to succeed or fail; so true freedom is the source of both failure and success.

This is another way of saying that good decisions create options for greater decisions and bad decisions destroy those options.

None of us stand still in neutral; we're getting better or worse and better or worse is our daily option of free-will in the realm of freedom.

All strength in life comes from integrity, so understanding weakness in the unbeliever makes evangelism meaningful and understanding our weakness as believers makes biblical truth meaningful.

If man is not free to fail, he can't see his need for the grace policy of God the Father, the saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross and the fantastic availability of the power of the Holy Spirit for the execution of the plan of God.

If believers are not free to fail, they cannot orient to their need in life for the plan of God including daily intake of His Word.

And if we cannot orient to our need for God's will and purpose for our lives, we're miserable for our entire lives.