

## In Times Of National Tragedy

Habakkuk 1

## God Rules The Universe

- ▶ **He Is Lord Of Heaven And Earth.**  
**Acts 17:22-31**
- "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).
- "It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: for the throne is established by righteousness" (Proverbs 16:12).

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- ▶ **Good times and bad.** Along with times of laughter and rejoicing, there are times of weeping, mourning, and death - such as occasions of tragedy and war.

*"In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider" (Ecclesiastes 7:14).*

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- ▶ **God overrules all evil and suffering to serve His purposes.**
- ▶ Suffering may strike in a way that appears accidental and at random. *"Time and chance happeneth to them all." Ecclesiastes 9:11*

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- ▶ **Don't know all the answers.**

*"When I applied my heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done upon the earth ... then I beheld all the work of God, that man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun: because however much a man labor to seek it out, yet he shall not find it; yea moreover, though a wise man think to know it, yet shall he not be able to find it."  
Ecclesiastes 8:16-17*

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- ▶ **Satan tries to destroy us.** 1 Peter 5:8;  
cf. Example of Job

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### Includes chastening and judgment of nations.

- › God judged the world. Genesis 6–9
- › Babel. Genesis 11:1–9

### God is Patient.

- › Amorites. Genesis 15:16
- › Sodom and Gomorrah. Genesis 18–19; Note 19:23–25

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## God Rules The Universe

### God is Patient.

Israel warned: Deuteronomy 4, 8, 30; Joshua 23:16ff

- › Would not listen. Isaiah 9:8ff; verse 16
- › Temporary judgments designed to bring repentance.  
***"Prepare to meet thy God." cf. Amos 4:6–13; Where were the leaders? Zephaniah 3:1ff***

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## God Rules The Universe

### God uses nature, nations, and individuals.

- › **Nature.** Joel 1:4, 10–12; 17–20
- › **Nations.**
  - **The King of Assyria.**  
*"... the rod of mine anger" against sinful nations, "howbeit he meaneth not so, neither doth his heart think so; but it is in his heart to destroy and cut off nations not a few" (Isaiah 10:5–7).*

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### God uses nature, nations, and individuals.

- › **Nations.**
  - **The King of Babylon.** God said that after using Assyria to chastise and destroy sinful nations, ***"I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high looks" (verse 12).***
  - God uses the wicked destroyed those more righteous. Habakkuk 1:6, 12–13

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## God Rules The Universe

### God uses nature, nations, and individuals.

- › **Nations.**
  - **Babylon to be destroyed.** Isaiah 13:1, 17–22; Jer. 50–51 Grandeur of Babylon, the capital of Chaldea, ***"the glory of kingdoms" and "the beauty of the Chaldeans' pride." (Isa 13:19) cf. Daniel 4:17, 30 "I have built ..." cf. Isaiah 10***
- › **Individuals.** Isaiah 44–45

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## Human Power Cannot Overtake God

- › **Political power cannot deliver.** *"Who is Jehovah that I should obey his voice?" (Exodus 5:2)*
- › **Material prosperity cannot deliver.** (Isaiah 13:17).
- › **Military might cannot deliver.** *"He delighteth not in the strength of the horse: he taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man. The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy" (Psalms 147:10–11).*
- › **cf. Example of the pride of Edom. Obadiah 3–4**

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## What Can We Do?

***"In the day of adversity consider"***  
***(Ecclesiastes 7:14).***

1. Our society is creating a culture of violence, blood, and death, celebrating such sins as entertainment.
2. Since abortion was made legal throughout the US by a Supreme Court decision in 1973, **57,762,169** abortions in America.

(<http://www.lifenews.com>) NATIONAL STEVEN ERTELT JAN 21, 2015 | 4:23PM WASHINGTON, DC

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## What Can We Do?

***"In the day of adversity consider"*** (***Ecclesiastes 7:14***).

3. Fornication, adultery, and homosexuality are socially acceptable "lifestyles."
4. Evolutionism and humanism have replaced God in the halls of education and government.
5. No such thing as an absolute standard of morality and ethics.

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## What Can We Do?

- **Trust God.** Proverbs 3:5-7  
People should see our unshakeable faith in God!  
cf. Hebrews 12:28
- **Wait.** Habakkuk 2:1-4, 20 "*the just shall live by his faith.*"
- **Pray for our nation!** 1 Timothy 2:1-6
- **Examine ourselves!** 2 Corinthians 13:5
- **Help others to seek God!** Acts 8:4

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## Conclusion: God Holds the Future

We do not know **WHAT** the future holds, but we know **WHO** holds the future.

- All the world should see in us the reverence expressed by Habakkuk, "***The Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him***" (2:20).

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## People Who Are Not Serving The Lord ...

1. He has appointed a day. Acts 17:30-31
2. Let the erring Christian confess his sins, repent, and pray God's forgiveness.  
Acts 8:22-24
3. Let those who have never obeyed the gospel put their faith in Christ, repent, confess his name, and be immersed in water for the remission of sins.  
Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Romans 10:10

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