

# NAVIGATING UNEXPECTED DETOURS

Habakkuk 1:1-11

Fellowship

CHURCH



*“God, what are you doing?”*

*“O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will not save?”*

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**HABAKKUK 1:2**

# What is Habakkuk crying out about?

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1. The people of Judah are neglecting and rejecting God's Word
2. There's rampant violence and injustice everywhere
3. Even the leadership of Judah is corrupt

*“Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise.”*

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**HABAKKUK 1:3**

# Why wasn't God doing "anything?"

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- Habakkuk is only seeing part of the picture...
  - God IS doing something! God already has a plan in motion to bring justice.
  - God is NEVER without a plan!

# Is it okay to doubt God?

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- The Bible never normalizes doubt in God
- There's a big difference between doubt and discouragement
- God wants us to trust Him and look to Him in faith, not doubt Him.

*“So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted.”*

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**HABAKKUK 1:4**



*“Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told.”*

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**HABAKKUK 1:5**

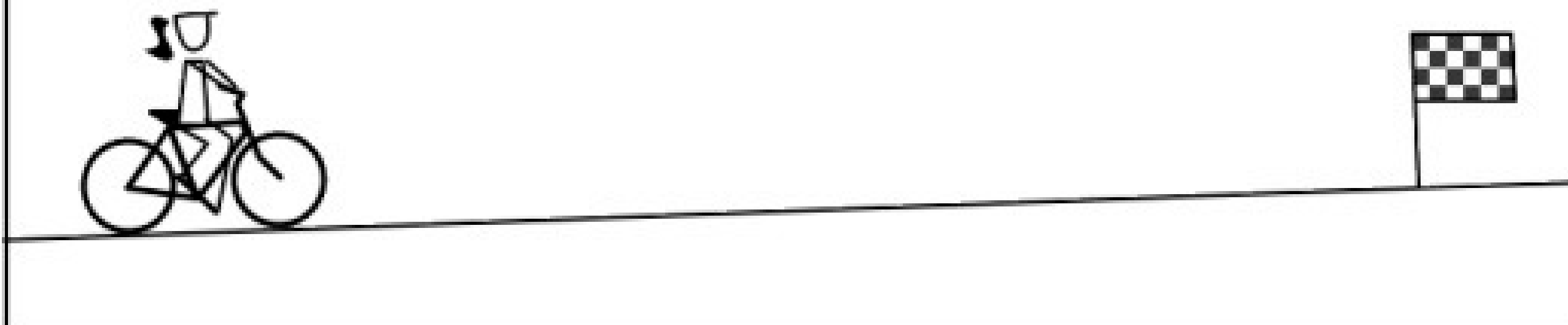
Habakkuk thought and felt that God wasn't working, when in fact, he just couldn't see HOW God was working.

*“Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told.”*

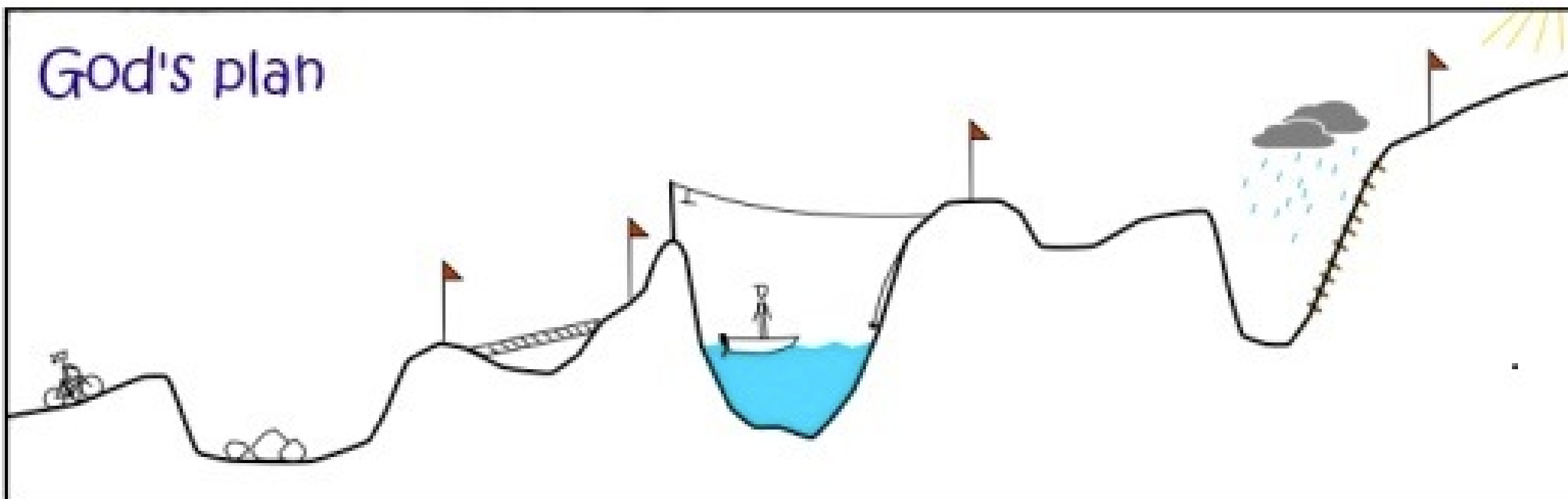
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**HABAKKUK 1:5**

Your plan



God's plan



*“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”*

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**ROMANS 8:28**

# Habakkuk's Reassurance

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1. God is always at work.
2. He ALWAYS has a plan, even if we can't see it.
3. His plans should leave us in awe, knowing that they are WAY better than what we could come up with ourselves.

*“For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans,  
that bitter and hasty nation, who march  
through the breadth of the earth, to seize  
dwellings not their own.”*

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**HABAKKUK 1:6**

# Babylon's Descriptions

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1. Bitter and hasty nation (v. 6)
2. Desire to conquer everything in front of them (v. 6)
3. They are dreaded and fearsome (v. 7)
4. They define their own versions of justice (v. 7)
5. They are equipped beyond your comprehension (v. 8)
6. They desire violence intently (v. 9)
7. They are a force to be reckoned with (v. 10)
8. They move like the wind (v. 11)
9. They reject God because their own strength is their god (v. 11)



*“behold, I will send for all the tribes of the north, declares the Lord, and for Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants,”*

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**JEREMIAH 25:9A**

All Habakkuk sees is a detour...but all  
God sees is their deliverance.

*“Then after seventy years are completed, I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity, declares the Lord, making the land an everlasting waste.”*

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**JEREMIAH 25:12**

*“I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.”*

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**JOB 42:2**

# Application

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## 1. Neglecting and rejecting God's Word leads to consequences (Hab. 1: 2-4).

- Everything that Habakkuk is complaining about is primarily the result of neglecting and rejecting God's Word and direction!
- Sometimes when we battle trial and hardship, it's self-inflicted; we failed to be faithful.

# Application

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## 2. We must go to God in prayer no matter how we feel (Hab. 1:2-4).

- In his time of uncertainty and unrest, Habakkuk turns TO God, not away from God
- He's struggling to understand what God is doing, but at no point is he doubting WHO God is.
- *"Are you not from everlasting, O LORD my God, my Holy One? We shall not die."* -Hab. 1:12

# Application

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**3. Often times the unexpected detour is actually God's answer and deliverance (Hab. 1:5).**





# Application

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## 4. God always has a plan (Hab. 1:5).

- God has the entire plan figured out!
- He already has answers to the prayers you're going to pray in the future

# Application

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**5. Often the answer to our prayers is not the answer we may want (Hab. 1:6-11).**

- When God answers our prayers with answers we don't prefer, we must faithfully, actively trust Him.
- God can use anything and anyone to accomplish His purposes.

# Need hope?

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One day...

- Satan will be defeated for good (Rev. 20:7-10)
- Judgment will come upon evil and injustice (Rev. 20:11-15)
- There will be a place with no more fear, tears, pain, struggle (Rev. 21)
  - God is already preparing this place

*“...For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told.”*

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**HABAKKUK 1:5B**

Remember...God is at work and He is  
working **right now.**

When we face an unexpected detour, we must respond in faith, knowing that **God has been, currently is, and will be at work.**

Though the fig tree should not blossom,  
nor fruit be on the vines,  
the produce of the olive fail  
and the fields yield no food,  
the flock be cut off from the fold  
and there be no herd in the stalls,  
**yet I will rejoice in the Lord;**  
**I will take joy in the God of my salvation.**  
God, the Lord, is my strength;  
he makes my feet like the deer's;  
he makes me tread on my high places.

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**HABAKKUK 3:17-19**

**Will you trust Him?**