



HOPE
IN THE
DARK

WONDERING

*God is good!
All the time!!*

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*God is good!
All the time!!
But life is not always good.*

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*"I have told you these things,
so that in me you may have peace.
In this world you will have trouble.
But take heart!
I have overcome the world."*

John 16: 33 NIV

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UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

Why ...?

Where ...?

When ...?

How ...?

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*... Jesus cried out with a loud voice,
“My God, my God,
why have you forsaken me?”*

Matthew 27: 46 NIV

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HABAKKUK THE PROPHET

*The prophecy (vision or burden– maasa')
that Habakkuk (to both embrace and wrestle)
the prophet received.*

Habakkuk 1: 1 NIV

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HABAKKUK'S COMPLAINT

*How long, Lord, must I call for help,
but you do not listen?*

*Or cry out to you, "Violence!"
but you do not save.*

Why do you make me look at injustice?

Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?

Habakkuk 1: 2-3a NIV

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*Destruction and violence are before me;
there is strife, and conflict abounds.
Therefore the law is paralyzed,
and justice never prevails.
The wicked hem in the righteous,
so that justice never prevails.*

Habakkuk 1: 3b-4 NIV

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HABAKKUK'S COMPLAINT

- Why are you letting this happen?
- Where are you, God?
- When are you going to show up?
- Not fair, God!

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Are you willing to ...
... ask God honest questions?
... both embrace and wrestle with God?
... listen for God's answer?

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GOD'S RESPONSE

*"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"*

Habakkuk 1: 5 NIV

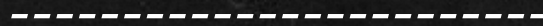
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*I am raising up the Babylonians,
that ruthless and impetuous people,
who sweep across the whole earth
to seize dwellings for their own.
They are a feared and dreaded people ...
they all come intent on violence ...*

Habakkuk 1: 6-7, 9a NIV

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Embrace



Wrestle

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HABAKKUK'S RESPONSE

*“Lord, are you not from everlasting?
My God, my Holy One, you will never die.
You, Lord, have appointed them
to execute judgment;
you, my Rock, have ordained them to punish.*

Habakkuk 1: 12

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*Your eyes are too pure to look on evil;
you can not tolerate wrongdoing.*

Why then do you tolerate the treacherous?

*Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up
those more righteous than themselves?*

Habakkuk 1: 13 NIV

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WHERE ARE YOU GOD?

*Human beings do not readily admit desperation.
When they do,
the kingdom of heaven draws near.*

- Phillip Yancey

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*God understands your pain,
and he invites your questions!*

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*Consider it a sheer gift (pure joy), friends,
when tests and challenges (trials and troubles)
come at you from all sides.*

*You know that under pressure,
your faith-life is forced into the open
and shows its true colors.*

So don't try to get out of anything prematurely.

Let it do its work ...

James 1: 2-4 MSG

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SEE THE WORLD