

# Message Notes

**"God raising up evil people to combat evil?"**

# Scripture Passages

*(taken from the New International Version)*

**Introduction** – *Following God is always difficult, but NEVER boring!*

1. Habakkuk's First Complaint  
(Habakkuk 1:2-4)

- a. How Long? (vr. 2)
- b. Why? (vr 3a)
- c. Facts (vr 3b)
- d. Four "Therefores" (vr 4)
  - i. Law is paralyzed
  - ii. Justice never prevails
  - iii. Wicked hem in the righteous
  - iv. Justice is perverted

2. God's Surprising Response

- a. The Sovereignty of God
- b. The Goodness of God
- c. The Justice and Purposes of God
- d. How this plays out in Habakkuk 1:5-11
  - i. LOOK!! (1:5)
  - ii. I am raising up the Babylonians
    1. Character of these people (1:6-7b)
    2. The reaction to them (1:7a)
    3. Their military prowess (1:8-10)
    4. Their wickedness (1:11)

3. Implications

- a. The Master Teacher God is...
- b. Does God really use ALL circumstances for his purposes, even evil ones?  
Romans 8:28
- c. If God is for us (Israel), why?  
Deuteronomy 28 / Job 38:1-6
- d. The difference between God's Wrath and Discipline  
John 3:36 / Hebrews 12:1-11

**Application** – *Is this a God you want to follow?*

**Habakkuk 1:5-11**

<sup>5a</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>I am raising up the Babylonians, that ruthless and impetuous people, who sweep across the whole earth to seize dwelling-places not their own. <sup>7</sup>They are a feared and dreaded people; they are a law to themselves and promote their own honor. <sup>8</sup>Their horses are swifter than leopards, fiercer than wolves at dusk. Their cavalry gallops headlong; their horsemen come from afar. They fly like a vulture swooping to devour; <sup>9</sup>they all come bent on violence. Their hordes advance like a desert wind and gather prisoners like sand. <sup>10</sup>They deride kings and scoff at rulers. They laugh at all fortified cities; they build earthen ramps and capture them. <sup>11</sup>Then they sweep past like the wind and go on—guilty men, whose own strength is their god."

**Psalms 115:3**

<sup>3</sup>Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.

**1 John 1:5**

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

**James 1:16, 17**

<sup>16</sup>Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. <sup>17</sup>Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

**Amos 3:5, 6**

<sup>5</sup>Does a bird fall into a trap on the ground where no snare has been set? Does a trap spring up from the earth when there is nothing to catch? <sup>6</sup>When a trumpet sounds in a city, do not the people tremble? When disaster comes to a city, has not the LORD caused it?

**Romans 8:28**

<sup>28</sup>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.

**Deuteronomy 28 (selected verses)**

**Job 38:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm. He said: <sup>2</sup>"Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? <sup>3</sup>Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. <sup>4</sup>"Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. <sup>5</sup>Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? <sup>6</sup>On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone.

**John 3:36**

<sup>36</sup>Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

**Hebrews 12:5-11**

<sup>5</sup>And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son." <sup>7</sup>Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? <sup>8</sup>If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. <sup>9</sup>Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! <sup>10</sup>Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. <sup>11</sup>No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.