

Introduction – "A mini-theology of suffering..."

Acts 9:15, 16

Philippians 3:8-11

Romans 5:3, 4

1 Peter 5:8, 9

Isaiah 55:8, 9

The Response of Habakkuk to God's First Answer

1. Denial - Habakkuk 1:12a
2. Acceptance* - Habakkuk 1:12b
3. The set up... - Habakkuk 1:13a
4. Here it comes... the protest - Habakkuk 1:13b
5. The analogy to make his point
 - a. "God, you are the one really responsible" - Habakkuk 1:14 (cf. Genesis 3:11-14)

Fairness vrs. Justice
 - b. Nine Protests to the way things are right now! - Habakkuk 1:15-16
 - c. Let me reiterate my protest - Habakkuk 1:17
6. Now I will wait - Habakkuk 2:1

Application – Are you willing to suffer for Jesus, even mental suffering?

Acts 9:15, 16

¹⁵But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. ¹⁶I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

Philippians 3:8-11

⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Romans 5:3, 4

³Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope.

1 Peter 5:8, 9

⁸Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

Isaiah 55:8, 9

⁸"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. ⁹"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Habakkuk 1:12-2:1

¹²O LORD, are you not from everlasting? My God, my Holy One, we will not die. O LORD, you have appointed them to execute judgment; O Rock, you have ordained them to punish. ¹³Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves? ¹⁴You have made men like fish in the sea, like sea creatures that have no ruler. ¹⁵The wicked foe pulls all of them up with hooks, he catches them in his net, he gathers them up in his drag-net; and so he rejoices and is glad. ¹⁶Therefore he sacrifices to his net and burns incense to his drag-net, for by his net he lives in luxury and enjoys the choicest food. ¹⁷Is he to keep on emptying his net, destroying nations without mercy? ¹⁸I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint.

Genesis 3:11-13

¹¹And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."