

We are **story**-shaped (or starved?) people.

Habakkuk 1:1-4

The pronouncement that the prophet Habakkuk saw. “How long, Lord, must I call for help and you do not listen or cry out to you about violence and you do not save? Why do you force me to look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? Oppression and violence are right in front of me. Strife is ongoing, and conflict escalates. This is why the law is ineffective and justice never emerges. For the wicked restrict the righteous; therefore, justice comes out perverted.

The **questions** we ask and the **tensions** we feel are about our need for “story.”

Habakkuk 1:5

Look at the nations and observe—be utterly astounded!
For **I am doing something in your days** that you will not believe when you hear about it

God is authoring a story.

Our questions & tensions can also be an **Intersection** ... →
Where stories collide

Habakkuk 1:6-7; 11

Look! I am raising up the **Chaldeans**, that bitter, impetuous nation that marches across the earth’s open spaces to seize territories not its own. They are fierce and terrifying; their views of justice and sovereignty stem from **themselves** ... they sweep by like the wind and pass through. They are **guilty**; **their strength is their god** ...

Habakkuk 1:12-13

Are you not from eternity, Lord my God? My Holy One, you will not die. Lord, you appointed them to execute judgment; **my Rock**, you destined them to punish us. Your eyes are too pure to look on evil, and you cannot tolerate wrongdoing. So why do you tolerate those who are treacherous? Why are you silent while one who is wicked swallows up one who is more righteous than himself?

2 Temptations:

1) Confuse the **scene** for the story.

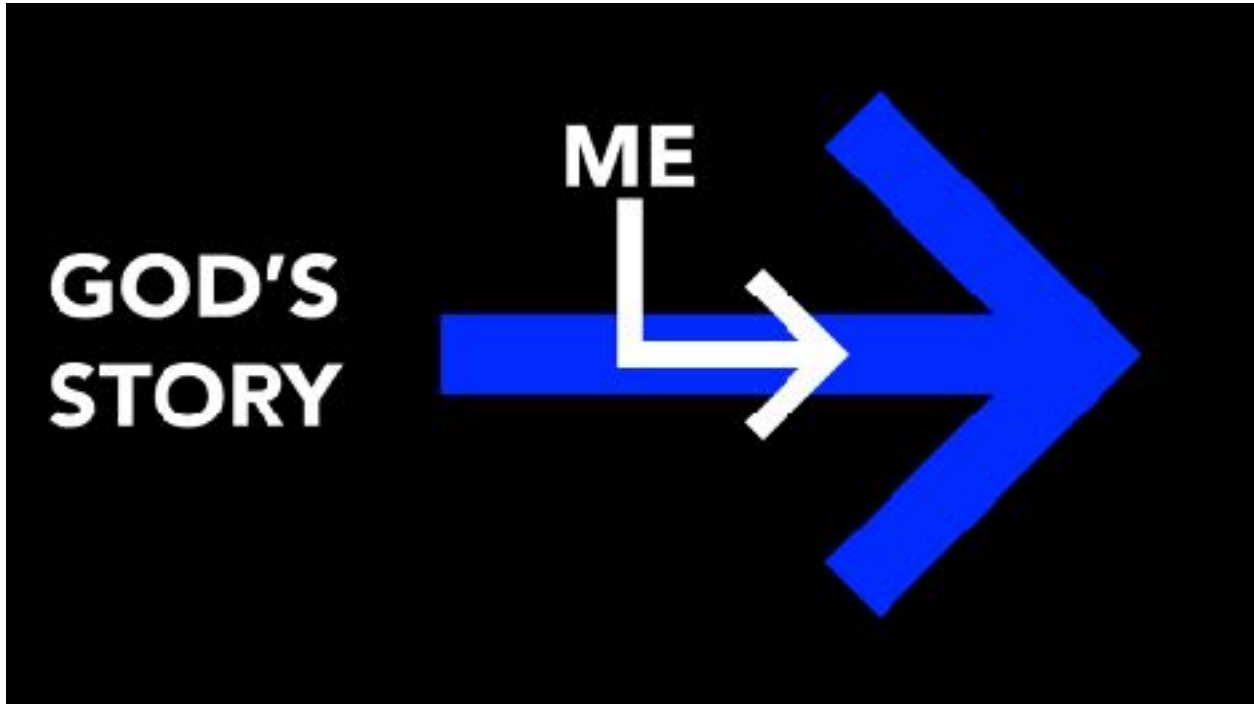
a) Hint: **now** and **not yet**

2) Miss the story of **God** for the story of **me**.



We were not created to live only for ourselves. We were put on earth to be part of something bigger than the narrow borders of our own survival and our own little definition of happiness. {Paul David Tripp}

TRANSCENDENCE



Habakkuk 2:1

I will stand at my guard post and station myself on the lookout tower. I will **watch** to see what He will say to me and what I should reply about my complaint.

The Shift: Questioning to **watching ...**

Habakkuk 2:2-3

The Lord answered me: "**Write** down this vision; clearly inscribe it on tablets so one may easily read it. For the vision is yet for the appointed time; **it testifies about the end and will not lie**. Though it **delays**, **wait** for it, since it will **certainly** come and not be late ...?"

1) God has **recorded** His story for us.

2) Knowing His story helps us spot **false ones**.

Habakkuk 2:4-5

Look, his **ego** is inflated; he is without integrity. But the righteous one will live by his **faith**. Moreover, wine betrays; an arrogant man is **never at rest**. He enlarges his appetite like Sheol, and like Death he is never satisfied.

False Stories:

I am what I do, have, or buy.

Humanism.

I am here by accident.

Follow your heart.

Cynicism.

Habakkuk 2:13-14,19

Is it not from the Lord of Armies that the peoples labor only to fuel the fire and countries exhaust themselves for **nothing**? For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the **Lord's glory**, as the water covers the sea ... the Lord is in his holy temple; let the whole earth be silent in his presence.

The Shift: **Self-centered to **God**-centered.**

Habakkuk 3:1-2 {*She-ge – own – oth*}

A prayer of the prophet Habakkuk. According to **Shigionoth**. Lord, I have heard **the report** about you; Lord, I stand in awe of your deeds. Revive your work in these years; make it known in these years. In your wrath remember **mercy**!

The Major Acts:

Creation: Designed for **good**

The Fall: Damaged by **sin & evil**

Redemption: Restored back into **relationship** ... with **God & others**

Mission: Sent together to **bles**



Consummation: Set everything **right**

Habakkuk 3:16-19

I heard, and I trembled within ... Now I must quietly wait for the day of distress to come against the people invading us. Though the fig tree does not bud and there is no fruit on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though the flocks disappear from the pen and there are no herds in the stalls, **yet** I will celebrate in the Lord; I will **rejoice** in the God of my salvation! **The Lord my Lord is my strength**; He makes my feet like those of a deer and enables me to walk on mountain heights!

{all on one slide}

- 3) The ultimate goal: trust the **Author & Hero**.
--His character over your circumstances
--His promises over your perceptions

- 3) Everyone **participates**. The question for us is “**How?**”

Remember: the **decisions** we make today will be the **story** we tell tomorrow.