

The Divine Let Down

- God-directed **disappointment, anger, resignation** ...
 - When it seems like you need to FORGIVE God

Habakkuk 1:1-4

O Lord, **how long** shall I cry for help, and you will **not** hear? Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will **not** save? 3 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. 4 So the law is paralyzed, and justice **never** goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth **perverted**.

The 4 Complaints Against God:

- Unanswered Prayer
- God’s Inaction
- God’s toleration of Injustice
- Presence & Power of Evil

Habakkuk 1:5

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.

Three Acknowledgements:

- 1) The **Bible** acknowledges and reveals this is the **world God created**—into which sin & evil entered—and is the world in which He **sustains and works**.
- 2) As inhabitants of this world, we can be very **open, honest, and transparent** before God.
- 3) We are not going to get **fully satisfying explanations** from God.

IF we demand **full understanding**, we will be in **continual** “*let down*” state.

The Divine Let Down:

- Breakdown or Breakthrough ... ???

Point of Breakthrough #1:

My **Perception** vs. God’s **Revelation**

Matthew 4:2-4

And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was **hungry**. 3 And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” 4 But he answered, “It is written, “Man shall **not** live by bread alone, but by **every word** that comes from the **mouth of God**.”

Matthew 26:54,56a

But how then should **the Scriptures be fulfilled**, that it must be so?" ...⁵⁶ But all this has taken place that **the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.**"

Habakkuk 1:6-7a, 11

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. 7 They are dreaded and fearsome ... 11 Then they sweep by like the wind and go on, guilty men, whose own might is their god!"

It will go from bad to worse.

God makes no apologies for being Himself.

- Sovereign over it
- With a purpose for it
- With prerogatives in it

God is very comfortable being Who He is even when His ways are inscrutable to us.

- Impossible to understand
- Unsearchable
- Infinite & perfect wisdom

Habakkuk 1:12-13

Are you not from everlasting, O Lord my God, my Holy One? We shall not die.

O Lord, you have ordained them as a judgment, and you, O Rock, have established them for reproof. 13 You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong, **why do you idly look** at traitors and remain silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he?

Habakkuk 2:1

I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower, and **look out to see what he will say to me**, and what I will answer concerning my complaint.

Point of Breakthrough #2:

To **wait upon** the Lord and to allow Him to have the **last word.**

Not Options / No longer Options

- Bury, Bypass, Bitter
- Self-pity & Complaint
- Resignation faith
- DIY life

Habakkuk 2:20

But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth **keep silence** before him.

We can be addicted to noise, activity, and to busy.

Proverbs 16:33

We may throw the dice, but the Lord determines how they fall.

Habakkuk 2:2

And the Lord answered me: “Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it.

Habakkuk 2:3

For still the vision awaits its **appointed time**; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it **seems** slow, **wait for it**; it will surely come; it will not delay.

Waiting Upon the Lord:

- Accepting that time is **God’s exclusive domain**
- Knowing that God’s Word is His **integrity/faithfulness** on the line

Habakkuk 2:4

“Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall **live by his faith**.

Point of Breakthrough #3:

To walk by **faith in the faithfulness** of God.

- Not faith in faith
- Not faith in what God might do
- Not scoffing & grumbling
- Faith in Who God is (~His faithfulness)

Hebrews 11:1,6

Now faith is the **assurance** of things hoped for, the conviction of things **not seen** ... 6 And **without faith** it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he **rewards** those who seek him.

The divine let down is the **divine opportunity to develop and exercise **breakthrough faith** in the God of the Bible → pleases Him & gets rewarded!**

Habakkuk 3:2

O Lord, I have **heard the report of you**, and your work, O Lord, do I **fear**. In the midst of the years **revive** it; in the midst of the years make it known; in **wrath remember mercy**.

Habakkuk 3:16b

... Yet I will **quietly wait** for the day of trouble to come upon people who invade us ...

Habakkuk 3:17-19

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, 18 **yet** I will rejoice **in** the Lord; I will take **joy** in the God of my salvation. 19 God, the Lord, is **my strength**; He makes my feet like the deer's; He makes me tread on **my high places**.

Point of Breakthrough #4:

To **joyfully** accept God's **transformation of me**

- **Defiance of the situation** → “it” shall not define me
- **Rejoicing in the Lord and His ways**
- **Treading on my high places**