God And The Nations v2

Lesson 5

Can My Faith Endure A National Judgment?

God And The Nations v2

1. Before Christ, God ruled the nations
2. God through Jesus rules the nations today
3. Righteousness exalts a nation
4. Can an unrighteous nation repent of its sins?
5. Can my faith endure a national judgment?
6. How should Christians behave toward governments?

Can An Unrighteous Nation Repent of Its Sins?

1. If nations are willing to repent God will change His mind about judging them
2. God is patient with nations desiring their repentance
3. Assyria an example of a nation that repented
4. Warning – a nation can go so far that it is unwilling to repent
5. Let us repent today while there is time!

Introduction

- Over time, nations tend to become more unrighteous in their behavior
- Eventually, as we have studied, God uses other unrighteous nations to judge them either diminishing them to some degree or completely removing them
- If our nation were to suffer such a judgment, would our faith endure to the point of continuing faithful to Christ?

Introduction

- Or, because of chaos and suffering, would our faith fail, turning to fear, anger, ingratitude and bitterness?
- In the past, God's people have been called to have a faith that endures such national judgments
- No matter how severe the judgment may be, God's plan is never defeated!
- Do we love and trust in God more than we love and trust in our nation?

Introduction

- Also, God will continue to deliver the righteous either in death or bringing them to another nation or having them continue to live in the judged nation
- Let us study and be encouraged by how Habakkuk faced God bringing Babylon to judge Judah
- Then, let us study and be encouraged by the principle of God delivering the righteous who continue to trust in Him

How Long Will God Wait To Rescue The Righteous?

Hab 1:1 The oracle which Habakkuk the prophet saw.

Hab 1:2 How long, O LORD, will I call for help, And You will not hear? I cry out to You, "Violence!" Yet You do not save.

How Long Will God Wait To Rescue The Righteous?

Hab 1:3 Why do You make me see iniquity, And cause me to look on wickedness? Yes, destruction and violence are before me; Strife exists and contention arises.

Hab 1:4 Therefore the law is ignored And justice is never upheld. For the wicked surround the righteous; Therefore justice comes out perverted.

God Will Send The Chaldeans (Babylon) To Judge Judah

Hab 1:5 "Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because I am doing something in your days-- You would not believe if you were told.

Hab 1:6 "For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, That fierce and impetuous people Who march throughout the earth To seize dwelling places which are not theirs.

God Will Send The Chaldeans (Babylon) To Judge Judah

Hab 1:7 "They are dreaded and feared; Their justice and authority originate with themselves.

Hab 1:8 "Their horses are swifter than leopards And keener than wolves in the evening. Their horsemen come galloping, Their horsemen come from afar; They fly like an eagle swooping down to devour.

God Will Send The Chaldeans (Babylon) To Judge Judah

Hab 1:9 "All of them come for violence. Their horde of faces moves forward. They collect captives like sand.

Hab 1:10 "They mock at kings And rulers are a laughing matter to them. They laugh at every fortress And heap up rubble to capture it.

Hab 1:11 "Then they will sweep through like the wind and pass on. But they will be held guilty, They whose strength is their god."

How Can God Use The Unrighteous Chaldeans To Judge Judah?

Hab 1:12 Are You not from everlasting, O LORD, my God, my Holy One? We will not die. You, O LORD, have appointed them to judge; And You, O Rock, have established them to correct.

How Can God Use The Unrighteous Chaldeans To Judge Judah?

Hab 1:13 Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, And You can not look on wickedness with favor. Why do You look with favor On those who deal treacherously? Why are You silent when the wicked swallow up Those more righteous than they?

Hab 1:14 Why have You made men like the fish of the sea, Like creeping things without a ruler over them?

How Can God Use The Unrighteous Chaldeans To Judge Judah?

Hab 1:15 The Chaldeans bring all of them up with a hook, Drag them away with their net, And gather them together in their fishing net. Therefore they rejoice and are glad.

Hab 1:16 Therefore they offer a sacrifice to their net And burn incense to their fishing net; Because through these things their catch is large, And their food is plentiful.

How Can God Use The Unrighteous Chaldeans To Judge Judah?

Hab 1:17 Will they therefore empty their net And continually slay nations without sparing?

Hab 2:1 I will stand on my guard post And station myself on the rampart; And I will keep watch to see what He will speak to me, And how I may reply when I am reproved.

God's Answer – The Righteous Shall Live By Faith But The Proud Will Be Destroyed

Hab 1:11 "Then they will sweep through *like* the wind and pass on. But they will be held guilty, They whose strength is their god."

Hab 2:2 Then the LORD answered me and said, "Record the vision And inscribe it on tablets, That the one who reads it may run.

Hab 2:3 "For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay.

God's Answer – The Righteous Shall Live By Faith But The Proud Will Be Destroyed

Hab 2:4 "Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; But the righteous will live by his faith.

Hab 2:5 "Furthermore, wine betrays the haughty man, So that he does not stay at home. He enlarges his appetite like Sheol, And he is like death, never satisfied. He also gathers to himself all nations And collects to himself all peoples.

God's Answer – The Righteous Shall Live By Faith But The Proud Will Be Destroyed

Hab 2:6 "Will not all of these take up a taunt-song against him, Even mockery and insinuations against him And say, 'Woe to him who increases what is not his-- For how long-- And makes himself rich with loans?'

Hab 2:7 "Will not your creditors rise up suddenly, And those who collect from you awaken? Indeed, you will become plunder for them.

God's Answer – The Righteous Shall Live By Faith But The Proud Will Be Destroyed

Hab 2:8 "Because you have looted many nations, All the remainder of the peoples will loot you-- Because of human bloodshed and violence done to the land, To the town and all its inhabitants.

Hab 2:9 "Woe to him who gets evil gain for his house To put his nest on high, To be delivered from the hand of calamity!

God's Answer – The Righteous Shall Live By Faith But The Proud Will Be Destroyed

Hab 2:10 "You have devised a shameful thing for your house By cutting off many peoples; So you are sinning against yourself.

Hab 2:15 "Woe to you who make your neighbors drink, Who mix in your venom even to make them drunk So as to look on their nakedness!

God's Answer – The Righteous Shall Live By Faith But The Proud Will Be Destroyed

Hab 2:16 "You will be filled with disgrace rather than honor. Now you yourself drink and expose your own nakedness. The cup in the LORD'S right hand will come around to you, And utter disgrace will come upon your glory.

Fearing The Lord He Prays For Mercy In The Midst of Wrath

Hab 3:1 A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, according to Shigionoth.

Hab 3:2 LORD, I have heard the report about You and I fear. O LORD, revive Your work in the midst of the years, In the midst of the years make it known; In wrath remember mercy.

He Praises and Trusts In God's Judgments

Hab 3:3 God comes from Teman, And the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah. His splendor covers the heavens, And the earth is full of His praise.

Hab 3:4 His radiance is like the sunlight; He has rays flashing from His hand, And there is the hiding of His power.

Hab 3:5 Before Him goes pestilence, And plague comes after Him.

He Praises and Trusts In God's Judgments

Hab 3:6 He stood and surveyed the earth; He looked and startled the nations. Yes, the perpetual mountains were shattered, The ancient hills collapsed. His ways are everlasting.

Hab 3:7 I saw the tents of Cushan under distress, The tent curtains of the land of Midian were trembling.

God's Judgments Are To Punish The Wicked and Save His People

Hab 3:12 In indignation You marched through the earth; In anger You trampled the nations.

Hab 3:13 You went forth for the salvation of Your people, For the salvation of Your anointed. You struck the head of the house of the evil To lay him open from thigh to neck. Selah.

Trembling and Rejoicing He Waits Quietly For God's Judgment Upon Judah

Hab 3:16 I heard and my inward parts trembled, At the sound my lips quivered. Decay enters my bones, And in my place I tremble. Because I must wait quietly for the day of distress, For the people to arise *who* will invade us.

Trembling and Rejoicing He Waits Quietly For God's Judgment Upon Judah

Hab 3:17 Though the fig tree should not blossom And there be no fruit on the vines, *Though* the yield of the olive should fail And the fields produce no food, Though the flock should be cut off from the fold And there be no cattle in the stalls,

Trembling and Rejoicing He Waits Quietly For God's Judgment Upon Judah

Hab 3:18 Yet I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.

Hab 3:19 The Lord GOD is my strength, And He has made my feet like hinds' *feet,* And makes me walk on my high places. For the choir director, on my stringed instruments.

The Faith of Habakkuk Facing National Judgment

1. How long will God wait to rescue the righteous?
2. God will send the Chaldeans (Babylon) to judge Judah
3. How can God use the unrighteous Chaldeans to judge Judah?
4. God's answer – the righteous shall live by faith but the proud will be destroyed

The Faith of Habakkuk Facing National Judgment

5. Fearing the Lord he prays for mercy in the midst of wrath
6. He praises and trusts in God's judgments
7. God's judgments are to punish the wicked and save his people
8. Trembling and rejoicing he waits quietly for God's judgment upon Judah

Live By Faith Believing and Obeying God For Salvation

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Rom 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

Live By Faith Believing and Obeying God For Salvation

Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."

Act 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

Live By Faith Believing and Obeying God For Salvation

Act 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Act 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

Live By Faith Believing and Obeying God For Salvation

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Act 8:22 "Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.

Live By Faith Believing and Obeying God For Salvation

Rom 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Live By Faith Believing God Has Ruled And Jesus Is Now Ruling The Nations

Dan 4:30 "The king reflected and said, 'Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?'

Dan 4:31 "While the word *was* in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven, *saying,* 'King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you,

Live By Faith Believing God Has Ruled And Jesus Is Now Ruling The Nations

Dan 4:32 and you will be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling place *will be* with the beasts of the field. You will be given grass to eat like cattle, and seven periods of time will pass over you until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.'

Live By Faith Believing God Has Ruled And Jesus Is Now Ruling The Nations

1Pe 3:22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

Rev 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood--

Live By Faith Believing God Has Ruled And Jesus Is Now Ruling The Nations

Mat 24:1 Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him.

Mat 24:2 And He said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down."

Live By Faith Believing God Has Ruled And Jesus Is Now Ruling The Nations

Mat 24:3 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

Mat 24:12 "Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.

Mat 24:13 "But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

Live By Faith Trusting God Will Supply Our Daily Strength and Needs

Mat 6:25 "For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, *as to* what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, *as to* what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

Mat 6:33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Live By Faith Trusting God Will Supply Our Daily Strength and Needs

Php 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Php 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Php 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Live By Faith Trusting God To Deliver Us From All Trials Including Death

Heb 10:32 But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings,

Heb 10:33 partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated.

Live By Faith Trusting God To Deliver Us From All Trials Including Death

Heb 10:34 For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one.

Heb 10:35 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.

Live By Faith Trusting God To Deliver Us From All Trials Including Death

Heb 10:36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

Heb 10:37 FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE, HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY.

Live By Faith Trusting God To Deliver Us From All Trials Including Death

Heb 10:38 BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.

Heb 10:39 But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

Live By Faith Trusting God To Deliver Us From All Trials Including Death

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Live By Faith Trusting God To Deliver Us From All Trials Including Death

Heb 12:1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Live By Faith Trusting God To Deliver Us From All Trials Including Death

Heb 12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Heb 12:3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Live By Faith Trusting God To Deliver Us From All Trials Including Death

Heb 12:9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?

Heb 12:10 For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness.

Live By Faith Trusting God To Deliver Us From All Trials Including Death

Heb 12:11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

Live By Faith Trusting God To Deliver Us From All Trials Including Death

Heb 12:22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,

Heb 12:23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,

Live By Faith Trusting God To Deliver Us From All Trials Including Death

Heb 12:24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.

Heb 12:25 See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven.

Live By Faith Trusting God To Deliver Us From All Trials Including Death

Heb 12:26 And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN."

Heb 12:27 This expression, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Live By Faith Trusting God To Deliver Us From All Trials Including Death

Heb 12:28 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;

Heb 12:29 for our God is a consuming fire.

Live By Faith Trusting God To Deliver Us From All Trials Including Death

Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Live By Faith Trusting God To Deliver Us From All Trials Including Death

Rev 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

Live By Faith Trusting God To Deliver Us From All Trials Including Death

Rev 12:11 "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.

Live By Faith Trusting God To Deliver Us From All Trials Including Death

2Ti 4:14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds.

2Ti 4:15 Be on guard against him yourself, for he vigorously opposed our teaching.

2Ti 4:16 At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them.

Live By Faith Trusting God To Deliver Us From All Trials Including Death

2Ti 4:17 But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was rescued out of the lion's mouth.

2Ti 4:18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

How Can Our Faith Endure A National Judgment Today?

1. Live by faith believing and obeying God for salvation
2. Live by faith believing God has ruled and Jesus is now ruling the nations
3. Live by faith trusting God will supply our daily strength and needs
4. Live by faith trusting God to deliver us from all trials including death