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God has something to say to you about... *trusting him in messy times.*
Habakkuk

On being committed to faithfulness in the face of events that seem to hinder the fulfillment of God's promises...

Two big questions in messy times→

How long do I cry for help and you don't listen, you don't save? Hab. 1:2

Not much longer—the apparent triumph of the wicked does not mean God has gone soft on sin-- everything has an appointed time (1:5-6,11; 2:2-3)

Why would you employ the wicked to execute judgment on your people? Hab. 1:12-13

Yes, I have appointed them to be my instruments of judgment - that they might prove themselves deserving of eternal banishment (2:3,14,16-20; cf. Ex. 14:4; Rom. 1:32; 3:19; 9:17-18), and that you might respond to the disciplining hand of God for eternal rescue (2:4,14; 3:16-18; Rom. 9:22-23).

In messy times, when your experiences seem to collide with your systematic theology, what do you need to remember?

1. The absence of judgment doesn't mean judgment is permanently suspended. (Micah -> Habakkuk; Hezekiah -> Josiah [2Kgs 23:26-27; 24:2-4]).

- God gives the persistently wicked over to the destructive choices of their rebel hearts
- The apparent triumph of the wicked over you, may be the discipline of the Lord upon you... while he holds the wicked accountable

2. Nothing or no one is really rogue; revelation awaits an appointed time (2:3).

3. The righteous will live by his faith (2:4).

4. God desires covenant loyalty and not “contract” loyalty (3:17-19; cf. Dan 3:16-18,28).

So What? (adapted from M. Lloyd-Jones)

In messy times...

- State your case and then look for God
- Revisit the truth about God (1:12,13)
- Reconsider the bigger picture of God's great purposes
- Remain full of faith - still in the dark? TRUST!