

Faith that Transcends Calamity 跨越災難的信心



Oh God! Why?
神啊! 為什麼?



3/29/2020

Habakkuk 哈巴谷書 2:1-4; 3:16-19

Maryland Gospel Church

馬利蘭福音教會

20/20 – An Eye-popping Year 令人矚目的 20/20年

It was only 6 weeks ago when nobody seemed to see what was coming. The US unemployment rate hit 50 years low, the stock market hit all time high. Most Americans were jubilant. They felt secure, they party, eat, drink, dance, travel and feel living in a fantasy land.



Fantasy Land





舞照跳



馬照跑



股照炒

Now We Have a Dilemma 我們現在陷入困境

It seems that all of a sudden the music stopped. The coronavirus hit one country after another. Our health and lives are suddenly at risk.

We wake up to the reality we are unprepared for a disaster like coronavirus - we don't have enough face mask, protective gears, ventilator, hospital bed & medicines. Even hand sanitizers and rubbing alcohol have run out. As people stop eating out and stay home, the coronavirus set off a chain reaction causing businesses to plummet from one business sector to another. fall down like dominos.





**Restaurants → Airlines → Cruise Lines → Hotels
→ Tourism → Retailing → Manufacturing
→ Entertainment → Sports
→ Social Gathering → Schools → Churches
→ Oil Price → Stock price → Banking crisis.....
Businesses are falling down like dominos**

Now the government is telling us it needs to create trillions of \$ (from nothing) to rescue the economy, without which unemployment could hit 30%

Who Brought the Coronavirus In ?

1. Human – by mistake
 - a) from eating wild animals like bats
 - b) from handling error in a virus research lab
2. Satan – on purpose, just like he attacked Job
3. God – for a purpose
 - a) Judgment on people's or the leaders' sins.
Ex. 9:3; Num 14::37; 16:46; 25:9; 2 Sam 24:15
 - b) Warning sign of His coming: Luke 21:11; Rev. 6:8;



God came from Teman,
the Holy One from Mount
Paran...Plague went
before Him; pestilence
followed His steps. 神從
提幔而來、聖者從巴蘭山
臨到...在祂前面有瘟疫流
行、在祂在他腳下有熱症
發出Habakkuk 哈巴谷 3:3, 5

We have been warned 神早已給我們警告

The Bible tells us “When people say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape.” 1 Thessalonians 5:3
人正說平安穩妥的時候、災禍忽然臨到他們、如同產難臨到懷胎的婦人一樣。他們絕不能逃脫。(帖前5:3)



Earthquakes, volcanoes, severe weather, wildfires, drought, diseases, terrorist acts, mass shootings, financial crisis and wars all have one thing in common: they all **increase in numbers , intensity and frequency.** We see these happening now and will continue to happen before the return of Christ. The Bible refers to them as “birth pangs”

We have been warned 神早已給我們警告

God has given us plenty of warnings in the Bible and numerous signs that we are living in the end time before Christ's return. If we are not aware of His coming, we are either blind, ignorant or not taking God's word seriously.

There will be very difficult time ahead of Jesus' return.

"For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be." (Mat 24:21)

因為那時、必有大災難、從世界的起頭、直到如今、沒有這樣的災難、後來也必沒有。(太 24:21)

Won't Christians be Raptured Before the Great Tribulations? 基督徒不是會在災前被提嗎?

There are different views about the timing of the rapture

1. Pre-tribulation rapture (災前被提)
2. Mid-tribulation rapture (災中被提)
3. Post-tribulation rapture (災後被提)
4. Partial pre-tribulation rapture (部份災前被提)

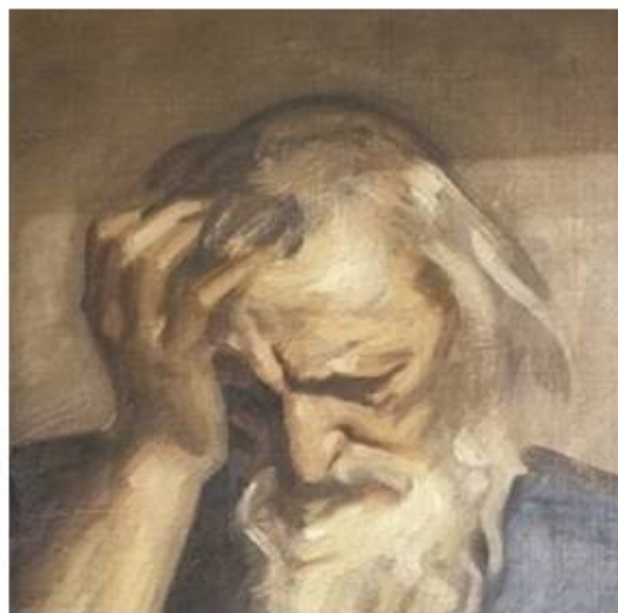
If we have to go thru some sort of tribulation, how shall we face it? 我們若要經歷災難當怎麼面對它

The Book of Habakkuk is the right book for end-time Christians to read because it was written for a nation facing enemy invasion and devastation.

Background of Habakkuk 哈巴谷的背景

Hubakkuk prophesied during the reigns of the last 2 kings of Judah before the nation was destroyed by the Babylonians

The book of Hubakkuk is different from other prophetic books in that it does not have a message for the people. It is the prophet's personal dialogue with God



This drawing of Hubakkuk picture him scratching his head trying to understand God. He was perplexed.



Twice Hubakkuk brought his questions to God and demanded God to answer him. God did answer him, though not the answers Habakkuk was hoping for.

Habakkuk's name means "embracer 擁抱者".

He embraced God when he had questions & doubts. He embraced God as he faced calamity coming to his nation.

Let us first have an **overview of the book** of Habakkuk. Then we will watch a 14 1/2 minutes video of the book's summary before we go into the heart of today's message

Habakkuk: Content Outline

I. The Prophet Wondering and Worrying

- ☐ God is indifferent (1:2-11)
- ☐ God is inconsistent (1:12-17)

II. The Prophet Watching and Waiting

- ☐ Write God's Vision (2:1-3)
- ☐ Trust God's Word (2:4-5)
- ☐ Declare God's Judgment (2:6-20)

III. The Prophet Worshipping and Witnessing

- ☐ He Prays to God (3:1-2)
- ☐ He ponders God's ways (3:3-15)
- ☐ He praises God (3:16-19)

Be Amazed

An OT Commentary on the Minor Prophets by Warren W. Wiersbe

首先讓我們先看看**哈巴谷書的鳥瞰**。然後我們再觀看十四分鐘半哈巴谷書概述的視頻(含中、英版)，好讓大家對這卷書有點理解。之後我才進入今天的中心信息。

1章	2-4	先知問：神為何縱容國中的強暴罪孽？
	5-11	神回答：神會興起巴比倫擄掠列邦。
	12-17	先知問：神為何用更惡之人刑罰猶大人？
2章	1	(先知登上望樓，等候神回答。)
	2-20	神回答：巴比倫最後也會受到報應。
3章	1-19	先知的禱告與信心的頌讚。

Summary of the Book of Habakkuk

Title : Overview: Habakkuk (6 min 48 sec)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPMaRqGJPUU&t=6s>

HABAKKUK

1-2a HABAKKUK & GOD

1-2-1 COMPLAINT #1
 HOW LONG WILL I CRY OUT? WHY WON'T YOU LISTEN?
 TORAH NEGLECTED
 VIOLENCE & INJUSTICE
 CORRUPT LEADERSHIP

1-2-2 COMPLAINT #2
 WHAT?! BABYLON IS EVEN WORSE THAN ISRAEL!
 THEY DON'T THINK POKER
 THEY TREAT HUMANS LIKE ANIMALS
 THEY DEVOUR NATIONS
 I'LL STAND GARDEN & WAIT FOR GOD TO RESPOND TO ME.

15-11 RESPONSE #1
 LOOK! I'M KNEESING UP THE BABYLONIANS!

12-15 RESPONSE #2
 • GOD WILL BRING BABYLON DOWN
 • GOD MAY USE CORRUPT KINGDOMS, BUT DOESN'T ENDORSE THEM
 • ALL NATIONS ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD'S JUSTICE
 VISION ABOUT AN APPOINTED TIME
Righteous WILL LIVE BY THEIR Faith

2b FIVE 'WOES'
 THE OPPRESSIVE INJUSTICE OF BABYLON
 1) UNJUST ECONOMICS
 2) SLAVE LABOR
 3) SLAVE LABOR
 4) IRRESPONSIBLE LEADERS
 5) IDOLATRY

3 HABAKKUK'S PRAYER

3-2 HABAKKUK TALKS WITH GOD
 RENEW YOUR WORK IN OUR DAYS!

3-7 GOD APPEARS HIS POWER!
 SPEAK TO MICHAI & NAHUM!... & TO THE SINAI (HABAKKUK)

YOU CRUSH THE HEAD OF THE EVIL HOUSE

YOU SAVE YOUR PEOPLE AND YOUR ANNOUNTED ONE

3-18 HABAKKUK TRUSTS
 EVEN IF THE FIELDS PRODUCE NO FOOD, I WILL FIND JOY IN GOD MY SAVIOR.

A FUTURE EXODUS

WHEN GOD WILL:

- DEFEAT EVIL
- BRING JUSTICE TO ALL
- RESCUE THE OPPRESSED

A PAST EXODUS BECOMES AN Image OF A FUTURE EXODUS

GOD'S ANSWER TO Habakkuk Later Generations

NOT UNIQUE! MOST NATIONS EVENTUALLY BECOME BABYLON...

Habakkuk believed that God is righteous, but he confronted God why He allowed violence, injustice, & neglect of the law in the society. After complaining for 20 years, God's answer suddenly came. He told Habakkuk He had been raising up the Babylonians to judge His people for their sins.

Habakkuk could not believe what God said. The Babylonians were the most dreadful, cruel and violent people. They would utterly destroy the whole nation & wipe out God's people. How could God use these most wicked Babylonians to judge the less wicked Jews who is God's chosen people?





So Habakkuk protested to God about His plan to use the Babylonians. He stationed himself in a tower on the city wall and waited for God to explain Himself.

“I 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.” (2:1)

我要站在守望所，立在望樓上觀看，看耶和華對我說甚麼話，我可用甚麼話向他訴冤。(谷2:1)

The reply God gave to Habakkuk was a revelation and is **the key message of the book**. He told Habakkuk:

“Behold, he whose soul is not upright in him (Babylonians) shall fail, but **the righteous shall live by faith**” Hab. 2:4

迦勒底人自高自大、心不正直，惟義人因信得生。(谷2:4)

The Righteous Shall Live by Faith (義人必因信得生)

The interpretation is: the righteous shall survive because he put his trust in the Lord 義人必憑信得存活



This is the key, the survival guide for a time of calamity. God instructed Habakkuk to proclaim this message: “Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it.”

將這默示明明的寫在版上、使讀的人容易讀。〔或作隨跑隨讀〕

The Righteous Shall Live by Faith (義人必因信得生)

This is the **key verse** in the Book of Habakkuk. It is also a **key concept throughout the Bible**:

Abram believed the LORD, and He credited it to him as righteousness. 亞伯蘭信耶和華、耶和華就以此為他的義 (Genesis 創 15:6)

This important verse is quoted 3 times in the New Testament with different emphasis. 這重要經節在新約也被引用三次

1) For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The **righteous** will live by faith." **Rom 1:17**
The **emphasis** here is **righteousness** – a **righteousness imputed** on the believer based on faith in Jesus Christ.
因為神的義、正在這福音上顯明出來。這義是本於信、以致於信。如經上所記、『義人必因信得生。』(羅 1:15)
這裏的**着重點是義**。信耶穌基督得着從神而來給予的義。

The Righteous Shall Live by Faith (義人必因信得生)

2) Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by **faith**." **Galatians 3:11** The **emphasis** here is **faith** – justification based on faith in Jesus Christ, not by observing the law.

沒有一個人靠著律法在神面前稱義、這是明顯的。因為經上說、『義人必因**信**得生。』加拉太書**3:11**。這裏的**着重點是信**。人被神得稱為義是因著**信**，不是因行律法

3) "You need to **persevere** so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised. For in just a very little while, "**He who is coming** will come and will not delay. But my righteous one will **live** by faith" **Heb. 10:36-38** The emphasis here is **live** (out your faith amid trials). This is also the emphasis in Habakkuk.

“你們必須**忍耐**、使你們行完了神的旨意、就可以得著所應許的。『因為還有一點點時候、**那要來的就來**、並不遲延。只是義人必因**信**得生”(來**10:36-38**)

這裏的**着重點是生(活)**(在災難試鍊時活出真信心來)這也是哈巴谷書所着重的。

How Can We Have Faith (如何獲取信心)

Biblical faith is not blind faith. It is grounded on God's words which are facts. God said it and it shall be done.

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by (from) the word of God (Rehema – God's spoken words, not written words)” (Rom 10:17) 可見信心是由于聽到道，所聽的道是藉著基督的話 (Rehema -說出來的話，不是寫下來的話)。(新譯本+呂振中譯本混合) 羅馬書 10:17

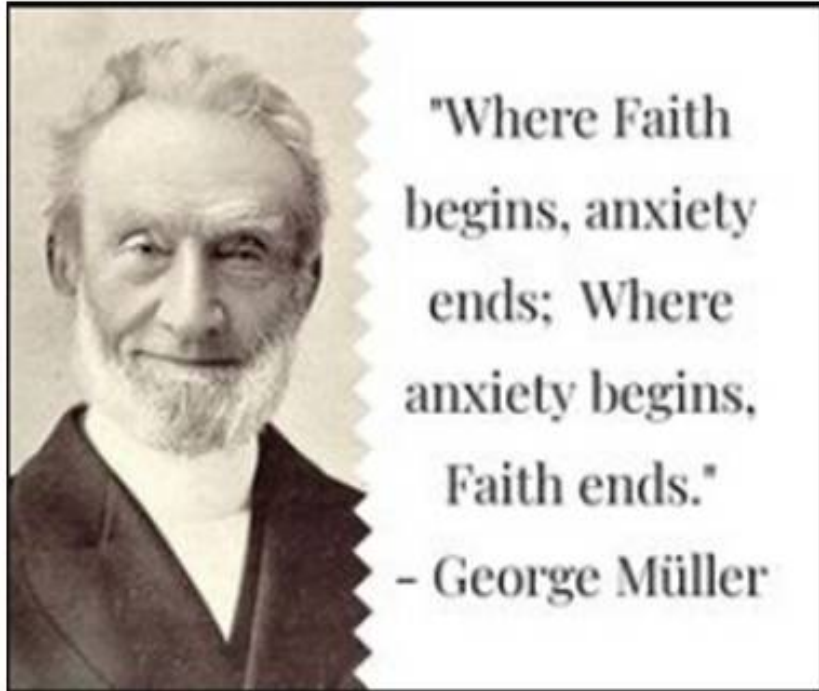
All heroes of faith derived their faith after God spoke to them. Noah, Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Peter, Paul....etc.

God spoke to Habakkuk, therefore Habakkuk was able to have the faith to face the coming calamity. God also commanded Habakkuk to proclaim to the people “the just shall live by faith”. Therefore those who heard it and received it can also have the faith to face calamity.

Faith & Fear 信心與懼怕

When Faith Begins, Fear Ends 信心的開始就是懼怕的結束

Men of great faith had times of fear



Abraham was in fear when the Lord said to him: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

**耶和華對亞伯蘭說: 你不要懼怕、我是你的盾牌、必大大的賞賜你。
(Genesis 創世記 15)**

When Fear Begins, Faith Ends 懼怕的開始就是信心的結束

Prophet Elijah singled handedly defeated 450 prophets of Baal and slaughtered them on Mount Carmel, yet when queen Jezebel wanted to kill him, Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. (1 Kings 18: 22, 39-40; 19:1-4)

Faith & Fear 信心與懼怕

Sometimes Circumstances Can Get Very Scary



"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," He said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" (Mat. 14:28-31)

When Fear Begins, Faith Ends
懼怕的開始就是信心的結束

彼得說、主、如果你、請叫我從水面上走到你那裡去。耶穌說、你來罷。彼得就從船上下去、在水面上走、要到耶穌那裡去。只因見風甚大、就害怕。將要沉下去、便喊著說、主阿、救我。(馬太 14:28-31)

Habakkuk's Fear 先知哈巴谷的恐懼

LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand **in awe** of your deeds, O LORD. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.

耶和華阿、我聽見祢的名聲、就**懼怕**。耶和華阿、求祢在這些年間復興祢的作為、在這些年間顯明出來、在發怒的時候、以憐憫為念。

The mountains saw thee, and were **afraid**.. In wrath you strode through the earth and in anger you threshed the nations.. You crushed the leader of the land of wickedness, you stripped him from head to foot...**I heard and my heart pounded, my lips quivered** at the sound; decay crept into my bones, and **my legs trembled**. (Habakkuk 3 verses)

山嶺見祢、無不**戰懼**.. 祢發憤恨通行大地、發怒氣責打列國、如同打糧.. 祢打破惡人家長的頭、露出他的腳直到頸項。**我聽見耶和華的聲音、身體戰兢、嘴唇發顫、骨中朽爛、我在所立之處戰兢**。(哈巴谷書三章經節)

Habakkuk's Faith 先知哈巴谷的信心

When Faith Begins, Fear Ends 信心的開始就是懼怕的結束



O LORD..,you rode with your horses and your victorious chariots.. You came out to deliver your people,..I will **wait patiently for the day of calamity** to come on the nation invading us. (Habakkuk 3 verses)

耶和華阿、祢乘在馬上、坐在得勝的車上.. 祢出來要拯救祢的百姓...我要**安靜等候**災難日子之臨到,來懲罰結隊侵掠我們的敵人(哈巴谷書三章經節)

FAITH IN SPITE OF CIRCUMSTANCES

超越環境的信心



Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed. Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead--since he was about a hundred years old--and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what He had promised. (Romans 4)

亞伯拉罕在無可指望的時候、因信仍有指望。他將近百歲的時候、雖然想到自己的身體如同已死、撒拉的生育已經斷絕、他的信心還是不軟弱。且滿心相信、神所應許的必能作成。(羅馬書第4章)

FAITH IN SPITE OF CIRCUMSTANCES

超越環境的信心



Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior. (Habakkuk 3: 17,18)

雖然無花果樹不發旺、葡萄樹不結果、橄欖樹也不效力、田地不出糧食、圈中絕了羊、棚內也沒有牛。然而我要因耶和華歡欣、因救我的神喜樂。(哈巴谷書 3:17, 18)

Strength to Overcome Calamity 勝過災難的力量



The Sovereign LORD is **my strength**; He makes my feet like the feet of a deer
主耶和華是**我的力量**·祂使我的腳快如母鹿的蹄
Habakkuk 哈巴谷書3: 19

The Sovereign LORD enables me to **go on the heights**

主耶和華又使我穩行在高處

Habakkuk 哈巴谷書3: 19



Concluding Words 結語

**“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or
nakedness or danger or sword?**

**No, in all these things we are more than conquerors
through Him who loved us.**

**For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither
angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future,
nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything
else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the
love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.(Rom 8:35-39)**

**誰能使我們與基督的愛隔絕呢。難道是患難麼、是困苦麼、
是逼迫麼、是飢餓麼、是赤身露體麼、是危險麼、是刀劍
麼。..然而靠著愛我們的主、在這一切的事上、已經得勝
有餘了。因為我深信無論是死、是生、是天使、是掌權的、
是有能的、是現在的事、是將來的事、是高處的、是低處
的、是別的被造之物、都不能叫我們與 神的愛隔絕。這
愛是在我們的主基督耶穌裡的。(羅馬書 8:35-39)**

Ending Testimony 結束見證

The Story Behind the Hymn **It is Well With My Soul**

「我心靈得安寧」 詩歌背後的故事和見證

A dramatic painting of a three-masted sailing ship on a stormy sea under a cloudy sky. The ship is dark and appears to be struggling against the waves. The sky is filled with heavy, grey clouds, and the sea is a deep, turbulent blue. The overall mood is one of struggle and perseverance.

“It is well, it is well with my soul!”

Faith that Transcends Calamity

跨越災難的信心



Q&A

Oh God! Why?
神啊! 為什麼?



Habakkuk 哈巴谷書 2:1-4; 3:16-19

Maryland Gospel Church

馬利蘭福音教會