

## **“The Book of Habakkuk” (Route 66)**

Let’s turn in our Bibles this morning... to the Book of Habakkuk... We were going to look at **2** BOOKS of the Bible this morning (Habakkuk & Obadiah)...

But—truth be told—I had one of those weeks where I was FIGHTING THROUGH the “crud”... and just kind of “lost” a couple of study days... And so, we’ll combine OBADIAH with our study of JOEL in a few weeks’ time... And, this morning, we’ll just look at Habakkuk...

Now, DON’T ASK ME what the “correct” pronunciation of his name is... It’s like that old song: “*You say to-MAY-to... I say to-MAH-to...*” – Some say Ha-**BACK**-kuk... others say **HAB**-akkuk... I’m not really sure it makes THAT much difference...

But it **IS** a great little book... I BELIEVE that—for hearts who are HERE, and OPEN, and READY TO RECEIVE, this morning—God has a BLESSING in store for us today...

While you’re turning there, this is where I—once again—ENCOURAGE folks to GO BACK and make sure you’re LISTENING to all of our PREVIOUS MESSAGES in this series... BECAUSE... CONTEXT is EVERYTHING...

And by now, we should have—at LEAST—a rudimentary understanding of WHO the prophets of Isaiah, Micah, Jonah, Amos, Hosea... and—LAST week—NAHUM & ZEPHANIAH **were**...

**WHEN** they were writing, **WHO** they were writing to... **WHAT the OCCASION was** for when they wrote...

Because—as I have mentioned for a FEW weeks now—with the prophets... we have reached a SECTION OF SCRIPTURE where a lot of folks Bible reading just “STALLS OUT”...

Folks can hang-in-there for GENESIS and EXODUS... and the CONQUEST OF THE LAND in Joshua & Judges... the LOVE STORY of Ruth, the COMING of the KINGS with David and Solomon and the BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE... BUT...

ONCE the UNITED KINGDOM OF ISRAEL **SPLITS**... into TWO KINGDOMS... 10 TRIBES to the North (Israel)... 2 TRIBES to the South (Judah)...

The Biblical Narrative is a LOT LESS LINEAR... And the narrator switches back-and-forth from the KINGS in the NORTH to the KINGS in the SOUTH... and he traces their history SIMULTANEOUSLY... And so, with the PROPHETS...

They’re NOT necessarily tracing A SINGLE STORY... THESE ARE INDIVIDUAL MESSENGERS to VARIOUS PLACES, at DIFFERENT TIMES with DIFFERING THEMES.

And – without context – a lot of people just **SKIP** OVER THEM... and RESUME in the New Testament with the BIRTH OF CHRIST... But THE PROPHETS provide so much insight into the timing, and history, and **scope** of the birth of Jesus...

And so—this morning—we've got **ANOTHER**... the small, little Book of Habakkuk... I have TITLED this message "**How to Live in Difficult Times.**"

I think you'll agree—by the END of this morning's message—the LESSON contained in this Book... is extremely RELEVANT to 2025...

We said LAST week... that Zephaniah is considered to have been the LAST prophet sent to Judah before the Babylonian captivity... But the other prophet who SEEMS to have ministered during this time was Habakkuk...

Habakkuk is BELIEVED to have written BETWEEN the **Fall of Nineveh**... Which—we saw LAST week (in Nahum)—was 612 BC... Habakkuk wrote BETWEEN the Fall of Nineveh, and the EVENTUAL FALL of Jerusalem in 586 BC...

Jon Courson points-out that: "*Babylon invaded Judah on three separate occasions before finally carrying the Jews into captivity... in 586 BC.*"

David Guzik writes: "*Since Habakkuk speaks of God 'raising up' the Babylonians, we can guess that he wrote in the 25-year period between the time when Babylon conquered [Assyria], and the time when Babylon conquered Jerusalem.*" – Probably sometime between 609—607 BC...

Now, we DON'T know a lot ABOUT Habakkuk... His name **ONLY** APPEARS TWICE in this Book... Outside of that, it appears NOWHERE in the Bible...

And, BOTH times his name is mentioned, he calls himself "**the prophet Habakkuk**," or "**Habakkuk the prophet.**" – So, he was probably a **PROFESSIONAL PROPHET**...

*"Trained in the Law of Moses in a prophetic school, an institution for educating prophets that cropped up after the days of Samuel."*

It's mentioned in 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel Chapter 10, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings Chapter 4... The phrase "**sons of the prophets**" appears about TEN TIMES in scripture...

It's ALSO SPECULATED that Habakkuk could have been a PRIEST... The PRIESTS were the ones who wrote SONGS and played MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS in the temple worship... And, there's a couple of **MUSICAL REFERENCES** in Habakkuk...

Chapter 3 opens with: "**A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, on Shigionoth.**" – Now, THAT TERM '**shigionoth**' is very mysterious... It **ONLY** APPEARS here in the Book of Habakkuk...

The SINGULAR FORM is in the opening to Psalm 7... It says: "**A Meditation of David.**" – The word 'meditation' is **SHIGGAION**... But nobody knows FOR SURE what this means...

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance defines it as: "*A wild, passionate song, with rapid changes of rhythm.*" – "*Most commentators think [this... carries] the idea of "strong emotion," "erratic*

wandering,” or “wild tumult.” Thus, the song was composed as a dithyramb (a vehement, impassioned poem). ”

Now... at the VERY END Habakkuk—in Chapter 3, Verse 19—he writes: “**To the Chief Musician. With my stringed instruments.**” – THAT is a **MUSICAL INSTRUCTION** that appears throughout the Book of PSALMS...

So, this has led MANY TO SPECULATE that Habakkuk MAY have served as a PRIEST BEFORE being called as a PROPHET... Which is INTERESTING...

Because (as Jon Courson puts it)... “*Jeremiah [had] ALSO [been] a priest before he was a prophet. It seems both men were called from a priestly ministry into a prophetic ministry, and both served in the days immediately before the Babylonian invasion.*”

But this HELPS to understand the **STYLE** of Habakkuk... Much of his words are **POEMS** that take the form of a **LAMENT**... Sort of like the Book of **Lamentations** (which—along with Jeremiah—is where we’ll be NEXT week)... or MANY of the **PSALMS**.

Now, here’s a BIT OF BACKGROUND to the Book of Habakkuk... IN the early days of his ministry, he had seen a REVIVAL under the leadership of King Josiah...

Josiah had only been EIGHT YEARS OLD when he became King... When he was SIXTEEN, we read: “he began to seek the [Lord]... and in the twelfth year” of his reign, “to purge **Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the wooden images, the carved images, and the molded images. They broke down the altars of the Baals... [he] made dust of them and scattered it on the graves of those who had sacrificed to them. He also burned the bones of the priests on their altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem.**”

THEN... “**In the eighteenth year of his reign...**” – When they were RENOVATING THE TEMPLE... we read: “**Hilkiah, the priest... found the Book of the Law of the Lord given by Moses... in the house of the LORD.**”

Dr. Philip Payne writes: “[This Book]... seems to have become misplaced during the apostate administrations of the previous kings...”

Adam Clarke writes: “*It is supposed to be that part of Deuteronomy... which contains the renewing of the covenant... and which contains the most terrible invectives against the corrupters of God’s [worship and] word.*”

And, Hilkiah declares: “**I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD.**” And **[he] gave the book to Shaphan,**” the scribe. – “**Shaphan... read it before [King Josiah].**” – And when Josiah “**heard the words of the Law... he tore his clothes.**”

He WEEPS before the Lord... He calls ALL THE PEOPLE to seek the Lord and observe the festivals... He “**commanded... the people, saying, “Keep the Passover to the LORD your**

God... [and] Such a Passover... had [not] been held since the days of the judges... nor in all the days of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah."

He: "put away those who consulted mediums and spiritists..." – And: "before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might... nor after him did any arise like him."

**BUT...** Here's the deal... You **CAN'T LEGISLATE SPIRITUALITY**... This is an IMPORTANT TRUTH for us to REMEMBER in the days of our hotly-charged POLITICAL CLIMATE... **LEGISLATING MORALITY** does not lead to TRUE, REPENTANT HEARTS...

One author writes: "*There [had been national] reformation, but no regeneration. People went through outward motions, but their hearts were not changed. They attended services... But... did not [know] the Lord.*"

And—IN THIS TIME—“*Habakkuk... Jeremiah, and others were on the scene, calling people to TRUE SPIRITUALITY. Not just religiosity, but a genuine relationship with God.*”

And—when Josiah leaves the scene—Jehoiakim came... And, we read: “**He did EVIL in the sight of the LORD... according to all that his fathers had done.**”

And: “**In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his vassal for three years. Then he turned and rebelled against him. And the LORD sent against [Jehoiakim] raiding bands of Chaldeans... Syrians... Moabites, and... people of Ammon; [the Lord] sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to—**”

**LISTEN!—“According to the word of the LORD which... He had spoken by His servants the prophets.”** – In other words, **WHAT WE HAVE BEEN STUDYING...** We read: “**At the commandment of the LORD this came upon [the Southern Kingdom of] Judah...**”

So, Habakkuk is writing at a REALLY DARK TIME in the history of Judah... He had SEEN A REVIVAL... And NOW had SEEN JUST HOW FAR the people had fallen, spiritually...

One author writes: “*The world AROUND [Habakkuk] was at war, and—with Babylon rising to [defeat] Assyria & Egypt—the threat of invasion... adds to Jerusalem's inner turmoil.*”

Words and the phrases that TYPIFY the OPENING CHAPTERS of Habakkuk are: “...**iniquity, trouble, plundering, violence, strife, contention...**”

And, Habakkuk's prophecy is **UN**-like any of the others we have looked at up-to-this-point... It is **NOT** A MESSAGE **TO** the people... Instead... Habakkuk enters into a CONVERSATION WITH GOD... and BASICALLY asks: “*Where are you? – Why aren't you working? – Why have You forsaken Your people?*”

Chuck Swindoll says: “[The Book of] Habakkuk pictures a frustrated prophet...” – Another author says: “[Habakkuk] believes God has removed Himself from the earthly scene. [He feels] His words are forgotten, His hand is not manifest, [and] God is nowhere to be found.”

He asks—in Chapter 1, Verse 2—“**O LORD, how long shall I cry, and You will not hear? Even cry out to You, “Violence!” and You will not save. Why do You show me iniquity, and cause me to see trouble? For plundering and violence are before me; there is strife, and contention arises... the law is powerless, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; therefore perverse judgment proceeds.**” – I wonder how many of **US** have had THOUGHTS like that lately?

And yet, here’s what Jon Courson writes... In this Book: “*Habakkuk starts out wrestling with God... [but] he ends-up worshipping God.*” – This is: “*one man’s pilgrimage from complaining to confidence... doubt to trust... MAN-centeredness, to GOD-centeredness...*”

Dr. Graham Scroggie writes: “[Habakkuk’s] FIRST complaint is [against] the apostasy of Judah...” – Which we talked about already... “*His second is that the Lord would use—as an instrument of chastisement—such a wicked people as the Babylonians.*”

The Bible Project writes: “*God [proceeds to pronounce]... five ‘woes’ [against]... the forms of oppression... perpetrated by nations like Babylon. The first two target unjust economic practices—how wealthy people charge interest to keep others trapped in debt... The third... is a critique of... those who treat humans like animals, threatening them... if they are not productive enough. The fourth... targets the abuse of alcohol by irresponsible leaders... The last woe exposes idolatry [behind] such nations—[who make] money, power, & national security [their] gods, offering allegiance... at all costs and becoming slaves to their own empire.*”

Now, another commentator writes: “[These] practices... aren’t UNIQUE to [the literal nation of] Babylon... Given the human condition, most nations eventually become Babylon.” – Keep that in mind... He says: “*God’s answer to Habakkuk becomes God’s answer to all later generations, to anyone who lives in a world ruled by [the spirit of] BABYLON.*”

And, the REASON that I point-this-out is because... The Book of Revelation pictures a COMING... WORLD-DOMINATING... COMMERCIAL and RELIGIOUS SYSTEM... that is REFERRED to as ‘**BABYLON**’...

And—if we don’t have a good understanding of WHO Babylon was (in the OLD TESTAMENT)... that NEW TESTAMENT reference will become LOST on us...

In Revelation 18, John sees: “**Babylon the great...**” And how: “**all the nations [will drink] of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth [will] commit fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth [become] rich through the abundance of her luxury...**” – He describes: “*merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood... of ivory... most precious wood, bronze, iron, marble; cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and*

**oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men.”** – What a **THOUGHT-PROVOKING STATEMENT...**

And we ALREADY SEE THESE 5 THINGS—against which God pronounces WOES in the Book of Habakkuk—running RAMPANT in the world today... [It's because **BABYLON** is on the rise!]...

So, God INSTRUCTS Habakkuk... In Chapter 2, Verse 3—to “**Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.**” – In Verse 4—God says: “**Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him... BUT THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY HIS FAITH.**”

This Verse forms the ‘**HEART**’ of this Book, and it’s where the **TONAL SHIFT** in Habakkuk’s writing starts to occur... And, it’s INTERESTING that God should TELL Habakkuk to **WRITE THIS DOWN...**

Because **3 TIMES**—in the New Testament—the writers take-up this phrase and **PLACE IT at the CENTER OF THE GOSPEL...** It’s “*one of the most important—and most quoted—Old Testament statements in the New Testament.*”

And, each time the New Testament QUOTES THIS VERSE, the EMPHASIS is on a slightly different element...

In Romans 1:17, the emphasis is: “**The JUST shall live by faith...**” – In Galatians 3:11, the emphasis is: “**The just shall live by FAITH...**” – In Hebrews 10:38—the emphasis is: “**The just shall LIVE by faith.**”

See, the Book of Habakkuk REMINDS us... that it’s OKAY to ask God the question: “**WHY?**” – In fact, I’d say, it’s **GOOD** to ask that question... **HOWEVER...**

There are **HONEST** questions... and there are **DIS-honest** questions... Habakkuk does not ASK QUESTIONS in an attempt to “*call God out,*” or **ACCUSE** God of anything...

Habakkuk has not **COME TO A CONCLUSION**... and now, he’s ASKING GOD **QUESTIONS** to see if **GOD’S ANSWERS WILL MATCH** the conclusions he has drawn... He’s **GENUINELY TRYING TO UNDERSTAND** the world around him...

The problem I see nowadays is... a **LOT** of Christians **HAVE** these types of questions... But—rather than turning to the Lord—we’ll turn to OUTSIDE RESOURCES and ask “*Why?*”

We’ll have CONVERSATIONS with Co-workers and Neighbors who are NOT believers, and expect THEM to offer insight... into SPIRITUAL MATTERS... that THEY THEMSELVES do not understand... Which is like asking a BLIND PERSON to describe COLOR...

We’ll watch endless YouTube videos and podcasts... We’ll read countless books... We’ll see what Jordan Peterson has to say... or Ben Shapiro... or Michael Knowles... or Joe Rogan... We’ll make appointments with psychiatrists, and take medications...

And it's **ALL** in an attempt to accomplish the same thing Habakkuk accomplishes in this book... To **TRULY MAKE SENSE** of WHAT is going on in our world...

But we are never going to understand the heart & mind of God if we do not become people who **READ GOD'S WORD**... and **PRAY**, and **LISTEN**, and **ALLOW** God to speak on **HIS BEHALF** into our hearts and minds and cause us to understand what is happening in the world today...

I think a good NEW TESTAMENT COUNTERPART to the Book of Habakkuk is Colossians 3:2: "**Set your mind on things above, NOT on things on the earth.**" – Like YouTube, or the News, or Corrupt Politicians, or Invading Nations... That's what HABAKKUK **HAD** been doing...

Paul says: "**[we] DIED...**" – And our lives have been "**HIDDEN with Christ in God.**"

That expression: "*The Christian can be so HEAVENLY MINDED that he's no EARTHLY GOOD.*" – I don't know how else to say this, that's a bunch of CRAP.

David Guzik writes: "*The best Christian living comes from minds that are fixed on heaven. [People who] realize that their lives are now hidden with Christ in God, and since Jesus is enthroned in heaven, their thoughts and hearts are connected to heaven also.*"

G. Campbell Morgan said: "*The believer is to 'seek things... above.' The word 'seek' means aspiration, desire, and passion... In order to seek these things the mind must be set on them.*"

Adam Clarke said: "*Love heavenly things; study them; let your hearts be engrossed by them. Now that you are converted to God, act in reference to heavenly things as you formerly did to earthly things.*"

There's a **COGNITIVE DISSONANCE** that happens to many Christians... Where we are **CALLED** to PRIORITIZE, and SEEK, and PURSUE, and BE OBSESSED with, really, HEAVENLY... ETERNAL... INVISIBLE... THINGS...

And yet, so much of our TIME, and ENERGY, and MONEY, and PURSUIT, and WORRIES, and FEARS are connected to EARTHLY, TEMPORAL THINGS... and they doesn't satisfy... and we can't figure out WHY? – This is what the Book of Habakkuk is all about...

God tells him: "**The just shall live by his faith.**" – There is a **QUALITY OF LIFE**... that COMES ONLY through a FAITHFUL DEPENDENCE and TRUST upon Holy God...

In fact, Hebrews 11:6 says: "**Without faith it is impossible to please [God].**" – "*Some Christians live by devotions. Some Christians... by [good] works. Some Christians... by feelings. Others... by circumstances. Each of these is meaningless—and... dangerous—without faith.*"

And by Habakkuk Chapter 3, it's like we're reading the words of a NEW MAN. – One author writes: "*The difference between the beginning of this book & the end... is striking. All has changed. The prophet is no longer controlled by—or anxious over—his circumstance... his sights*

*have been raised. Temporal affairs no longer fill his thoughts; his thoughts are on things above. Instead of being ruled by worldly considerations, Habakkuk has fixed his hopes on God, and declares: “He will make me walk on my high hills.” – We [read] phrases like “rejoicing in the Lord, joy in the God of my salvation, God is my strength, feet like deer’s feet”. If the heart of the gospel is change & transformation, the book of Habakkuk demonstrates evangelical renewal.”*

And—in the MIDDLE of Chapter 3, Verse 13—Habakkuk writes: **“You went forth for the salvation of Your people...”** – **“FOR SALVATION... with YOUR ANOINTED... you STRUCK THE HEAD from the HOUSE OF THE WICKED.”**

When we consider that ‘**JESUS**’ means “*salvation*,” and ‘**CHRIST**’ means ‘*God’s Anointed*’... And that Jesus will CRUSH the **HEAD** of the serpent—the “*wicked one*”...

I think this is an AMAZING Old Testament reference... to God’s COMING KING—the Messiah—from the line of David... Jesus Christ...

The LAST THREE VERSES of Habakkuk have been called “*one of the finest things in the Bible.*” – We read: **“Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls—Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.”**

PLEASE NOTE... Habakkuk does NOT say: “*When things get BETTER*” I will rejoice... He says “*even though they aren’t*”... “*My circumstances HAVE NOT CHANGED*”... And YET I will rejoice... I’m GOING to “take joy” in the Lord...

That phrase **“I WILL REJOICE”**... appears over a **HUNDRED** TIMES in Scripture...

David Guzik writes: “*Habakkuk [found] no joy in the fig tree or... the vines or... the fields or... the flock... [but] God was unchanged... [Habakkuk] didn’t just practice positive thinking and shut-out the [reality] of the barren fig tree and the empty... stalls. Instead... he saw those problems for what they were... [but] remembered that God was greater than them all.*”

This is a POWERFUL REMINDER that JOY is NOT connected to CIRCUMSTANCE... HAPPINESS is... **HAPPY**—ness is connected to what is **HAPPEN**—ing... in our lives...

But JOY... JOY is the SUPERNATURAL BY-PRODUCT of the Spirit of God working in the heart of man... It is the FRUIT of the SPIRIT...

And, it’s the CURE for anxiety!... And, right now—I get it—somebody’s thinking, “*Kevin, you don’t understand... That is really insensitive... There’s a lot of people who struggle with anxiety.*”

Trust me, I KNOW... I DO understand... I talk to a LOT of people who struggle with anxiety, and—let me tell you—a LOT of those people **DON’T** do this... They **DON’T** have an active prayer life... They **DON’T** have a close walk with the Lord... they **DON’T** spend a lot of time reading their Bible...

They have **VERY LITTLE REGARD** for HOLINESS, and **CONSECRATION**... and a life “SET APART” unto the things of the God... and a **PASSIONATE PURSUIT**—an **EXALTATION**—of **HEAVENLY—ETERNAL**—things...

And they’re **CONSTANTLY “weighed down”** by the things of this life—just as Jesus warns in Luke Chapter 21...

And they’re left unto themselves... trying to **PROCESS** all their worry and anxiety on their own... Or through a lot of the resources I mentioned earlier...

And because those resources **DON’T** provide real answers... Or – at best – offer temporary relief... When that relief wears off... When the conversation with the therapist is over...

**WORRY** will rear its ugly head again... **OR** there will be something **NEW** to worry about... and we’ll be **RIGHT BACK** to **SQUARE ONE**...

Philippians 4:6 & 7 say: “**Be anxious for NO THING... but in EVERYTHING... by prayer and supplication—with **THANKSGIVING**—let your requests be made known to God...**” – That’s exactly what **HABAKKUK** did... “**And the PEACE of God**,” we read...

“**Which is BEYOND UNDERSTANDING... will guard your hearts and minds**”—our THOUGHTS and FEELINGS—“**through Christ Jesus**.”

And—please note—the **PEACE** that is **PROMISED** is not **THROUGH** understanding... We sometimes make that mistake... We think: “*If I could just UNDERSTAND what is happening, then I would be at peace.*”

But, the path to peace is not understanding **WHY** there is such political division in our country... it’s not in understanding **WHY** one person assassinates another... it’s not in understanding **WHY** the economy is tanked... or **WHY** we get a terrible medical diagnosis...

The **PEACE** that is promised here is not **THROUGH** understanding... It is **BEYOND** understanding... it **SURPASSES** understanding... And—ultimately—it’s like we talked about when we studied the Book of Job, the **ANSWER** is not a **WHY**... it’s a **WHO**...

Paul says: “**The PEACE of God, which is BEYOND UNDERSTANDING...**” will “**guard [our] hearts and [our] minds through Christ Jesus.**”

Like that Verse we talked about earlier: “**Set your mind on things above, [and] NOT on things on the earth. [Because] you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.**”

We are **IN** Christ Jesus... and this peace is **IN** Christ Jesus... This is why Habakkuk says: “**I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.**” – It’s not joy **FROM** the Lord... It’s joy **IN** the Lord...

If we will stop spending SO MUCH TIME trying to FIGURE THINGS OUT and understand **WHY** things happen the way they do... and—instead—just CELEBRATE, and EMBRACE, and LIVE in the reality that we have been placed **INSIDE** Christ Jesus...

Who **IS** the Prince of Peace... our hearts and mind will be GUARDED against the **VEXATION** of the TURMOIL of this life... It's not that we won't experience them...

It's when we DO experience them – in the MIDDLE of them – we will KNOW—and have ACCESS to—SOME **ONE**... Who is supernatural... And beyond ANY RESOURCE—or ANSWER—this world has to offer...

God has promised... to keep us “**in perfect peace, whose mind is STAYED**”—**FIXATED**—“**upon Him... Because [we] TRUST in [Him].**” – And—by the end of Habakkuk...

The prophet becomes a shining example of how “**the just shall live by faith.**” – “*He recognizes how dark and chaotic the world—and our lives—can become... but he also sees how this invites us into the journey of faith, trusting that God LOVES this world more than we can imagine and that He will one day deal with its evil.*” – **THAT** is the message of the Book of Habakkuk...

If you're here this morning, and you DON'T KNOW Jesus Christ... YOU WANT TO! – He will CHANGE EVERYTHING!

And, I DON'T MEAN that He will change your **CIRCUMSTANCES**... I mean that HE WILL CHANGE **YOU!**

And, I KNOW... YOU **LOVE YOU!** – We ALL love ourselves... We NEVER want to believe that WE'RE the problem... but we ARE...

Our biggest problem is NOT the world... It's US... It's our OWN SINFUL CONDITION... But Jesus Christ has claimed the VICTORY OVER THAT... and He wants to SHARE IT with you this morning...

If you will just come to Him BY FAITH... And experience the LIFE that He has to give!

If you don't know Jesus, PLEASE don't leave here today without finding myself, or one of our Pastors, or one of our Prayer Partners... we would LOVE to PRAY with you—and talk to you MORE—about the Lord...

Now, next week... We've got ANOTHER **BIG ONE**... The Book of Jeremiah AND Lamentations... We'll look at them TOGETHER... as we begin to look at the various prophets who wrote... **RIGHT AROUND** the TIME when Jerusalem fell...

And the Southern Kingdom is taken INTO CAPTIVITY in Babylon... So, spend time this week reading over Jeremiah... And then, join us next Sunday... That's what's ahead... as Route 66 continues!