

# Resonate

BIBLE STUDY

**“DISAPPOINTMENT”**

There are some problems which seem to loom out at us. They encompass our emotions and thoughts. We seem unable to get away from the grip they have on our lives. This week we will honestly address one of these issues, which is the disappointment that comes into our lives. We look to the Word of God on how to deal with it.



## The Word

### Today's Scripture:

Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13, 18, 23-28; 39:2, 45:4-8

Have you ever been disappointed by other people? Did a parent break a promise? Did a friend use you? Was a teacher discouraging? Did your brothers sell you into slavery? No, you weren't sold into slavery? Well, let's discuss someone who experienced their share of sibling rivalry. His name is Joseph.

Joseph was one of twelve sons of Jacob, also known as Israel. And he was the favorite. Jacob adored this one special son and his brothers knew it and they weren't happy.

### **Genesis 37:3-4**

*<sup>3</sup> Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him. <sup>4</sup> When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.*

**Verse 3-4:** Imagine how lonely it was for Joseph. He was hated by his brothers. They were never nice to him. They could not even fake it. Whenever they spoke a word to him, it was just cruel. Joseph was disappointed in his family dynamics. And it was to get even worse.

### **Genesis 37:12-13, 18, 23-28**

*<sup>12</sup> Now his brothers had gone to graze their father's flocks near Shechem, <sup>13</sup> and Israel said to Joseph, "As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them."*

*"Very well," he replied...*

*<sup>18</sup> But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him...*

<sup>23</sup> So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the richly ornamented robe he was wearing- <sup>24</sup> and they took him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

<sup>25</sup> As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.

<sup>26</sup> Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? <sup>27</sup> Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed.

<sup>28</sup> So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

**Verse 18-24:** Joseph was hated so much that his own brothers plotted to kill him. Can you imagine the shock when his own flesh and blood attacked him? Their words were probably as vicious as their actions. He probably had bruises not only on his body but on his heart as well. His pain probably rose in terror as he is thrown without mercy into a well. Joseph was probably screaming for help while his brothers callously sat down for a meal.

**Verse 25-28:** Judah in complete wickedness proclaims that to just kill his brother would be foolish. He would rather make money off of him. Then he justifies it with, "Well, guys, he is our bro and all. Let's not actually kill him but just make him a slave for life." Oh, how "kind" of them.

I wonder if Joseph thought the cruelty of his brothers was over when they began to lift him out of the well. Did he think that maybe they would apologize? How did it feel to be brought out of the pit only to be shackled as a slave? He was probably pleading with his brothers and they just ignored his cries. This seventeen year old kid watched as his kin received money for his life. He is bound and taken away. How would you feel?

To say the very least, Joseph was disappointed in his family. He was the victim of their jealousy, their anger, their violence, their deceit, their greed, their evil. He was now taken to a foreign land with a strange language and different customs.

How would you have handled this disappointment? What would you do? May Joseph inspire all of us. This teenager depended on the only family he still had, His Heavenly Father.

## **Genesis 39:2**

*<sup>2</sup> The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.*

**Verse 2:** Joseph recognized the fact that he was not alone. He knew that God was with him. Joseph worked hard in the circumstance he found himself and saw the Lord at work in his life. Despite his age, despite his past, despite his victimization, despite circumstances, despite his family, Joseph pressed on. Joseph did not stay focused on what he had lost: his freedom, his family, his father, his friends, his future; instead, he focused on what he had: the Lord. This not only enabled him to face the disappointment of his family but also to forgive it.

Through a series of divine circumstances, Joseph became second in charge of all of Egypt. Due to a severe famine, his own brothers came to Egypt to buy food. They had no idea who they were asking for help, the same brother whose cries for help they had ignored over two decades before.

## **Genesis 45:4-8**

*<sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! <sup>5</sup> And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. <sup>6</sup> For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping. <sup>7</sup> But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.*

*<sup>8</sup> "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt..."*

**Verse 4-8:** Joseph allowed God to take his disappointment and see it through divine eyes. He recognized that the Lord was in control and in His sovereign will allowed the evil actions of the brothers to be used ultimately for good.

I do not know how your family has let you down. Some of you may have serious pain from your past or it may possibly be ongoing. Bring the disappointment to the Lord. Allow Him to work the situation for good. It may take years, but at some point you will see His glory.

# Application

Be honest before God and share with Him any disappointments you have in your life.

How can we go from disappointment in our family to forgiveness?

What do you think brought Joseph to the point of believing that ultimately God had sent him to Egypt not his brothers? How can we achieve this same perspective in our disappointments?



## Today's Scripture:

Ruth 1:1-5, 8-9, 14-18, 19-21; 4:13-17

## The Word

Have you ever had a bad day? What about a bad week, or month, or year? Then, you know what it feels like to be disappointed in your circumstances. Sometimes, the events of our lives can be overwhelming.

### **Ruth 1:1-5**

*<sup>1</sup> In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. <sup>2</sup> The man's name was Elimelech, his wife's name Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there. <sup>3</sup> Now Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup> They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, <sup>5</sup> both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.*

**Verse 1-5:** A famine had invaded Judah. In hopes for a better life, this family moved to the pagan country of Moab. In the course of time, Naomi's husband died. She is alone in a foreign land with her two sons. Eventually, they marry Moabite women but after a time, these two sons also die.

Imagine the heartache. Your family is all dead. You are far from home. You are in a land which does not have the same spiritual beliefs as you. You are literally all alone. Life was a disappointment to Naomi. What began as a journey to save her family led to their demise. The dreams she had for her sons were shattered. Her hope was gone.

In the midst of her heartbreak, she heard some good news which would change her life's course forever.

### ***Ruth 1:6-9***

*<sup>6</sup> When she heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, Naomi and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. <sup>7</sup> With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah. <sup>8</sup> Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the LORD show kindness to you, as you have shown to your dead and to me. <sup>9</sup> May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband." Then she kissed them and they wept aloud... <sup>14</sup> At this they wept again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye, but Ruth clung to her. <sup>15</sup> "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her." <sup>16</sup> But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. <sup>17</sup> Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me." <sup>18</sup> When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.*

**Verse 6-9:** In the midst of her disappointment at her circumstances, Naomi was still sensitive to the work of the Lord. She realized His sovereignty. She acknowledged Him as powerful to help those in need. She reminded herself that she was a part of His people, His child. She was willing to move herself into His protective care by returning back to her homeland.

This was a difficult decision. Travel was not easy during those days. Not only was the journey difficult but unsafe as well, especially for a woman. Naomi gathered up courage and chose to make steps in a direction that would help her. In her sadness, it would have been easier to stay where she was and wallowed in her pain. Instead, Naomi realized that she had a

choice whether to move forward or not. With great difficulty, Naomi decided to return home.

### **Ruth 1:8-9, 14-18**

*<sup>8</sup> Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the LORD show kindness to you, as you have shown to your dead and to me. <sup>9</sup> May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband." Then she kissed them and they wept aloud... <sup>14</sup> At this they wept again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye, but Ruth clung to her. <sup>15</sup> "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her." <sup>16</sup> But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. <sup>17</sup> Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me." <sup>18</sup> When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.*

**Verse 8-9:** Naomi was in the middle of deep pain. Her husband and sons had all died. She was beginning to embark on a very difficult journey. Her future was uncertain. Many of us in a similar situation may have reacted with selfishness, believing the world should revolve around us. Yet, Naomi chose to focus on others. She entreated her daughter-in-laws to return to Moab. She wished them future happiness and showed her love and concern for them through her tears. Naomi, in the middle of life's disappointments, focused on others.

**Verse 14-18:** Orpah returned to Moab and we never hear about her again. Ruth, however, decided to go with Naomi. At first, Naomi tried to discourage her but then realized Ruth's determination. Naomi allowed this young woman to be a part of her life. For in this act, Ruth was forsaking her family and claiming Naomi as her mother.

Sometimes when we are in our pain, we just want to be all alone. We quit speaking to family and we stop returning our friends' phone calls. We just want to be miserable all by ourselves. However, Naomi recognized the love of Ruth and was willing to take her as her own. Even deep in pain, Naomi was willing to receive the shows of love by others and to respond in love as well. Together, Naomi and Ruth journeyed home.

### **Ruth 1:19-21**

*<sup>19</sup> So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?" <sup>20</sup> "Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the*

*Almighty has made my life very bitter. <sup>21</sup> I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The LORD has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me."*

**Verse 19-21:** Naomi's name meant "pleasant". But due to her circumstances, she felt more like "Mara" which means "bitter". Life had been bitter for Naomi. And she was upset about it.

What I love about Naomi is that she was honest about her feelings. We live in a culture with plastic smiles and the constant answer of "fine" to the question of "how are you?". We keep up the image as best we can. Naomi dealt honestly and openly about her struggles. She recognized that God could have prevented her pain, yet He did not. However, she knew that she had changed in the circumstances, going from pleasant to bitter. In her hurt and pain and even her anger at God, she knew that she had made the choice to be changed by the events in her life.

While Naomi's pain did not change, her husband and sons were gone, she did choose to find joy in the circumstances of others.

### ***Ruth 4:13-17***

*<sup>13</sup> So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. Then he went to her, and the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. <sup>14</sup> The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! <sup>15</sup> He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth." <sup>16</sup> Then Naomi took the child, laid him in her lap and cared for him. <sup>17</sup> The women living there said, "Naomi has a son." And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.*

**Verse 13-17:** What has taken place? Ruth has fallen in love. She marries Boaz. They have a baby. What does Naomi do? She does not complain that Ruth has a new husband while she does not. She does not cry that Ruth now has a son while her sons are dead. She does not try to destroy the happiness of Ruth. Instead, Naomi shares in the joy. She decides to use her talents as a mom who raised two sons, to help a brand new mom out. She adored her grandson by her adopted daughter. She did not fret about him not being her son's son. Instead, she enjoyed the family that God chose to give her. Her past circumstances had not changed, but she determined to live fully in her present situation. That is how Naomi went from Mara to Naomi once again.

# Application

God is still with us even during our times of pain. Naomi did not recognize fully all that He was accomplishing in her life. Yet, she rediscovered the joy in the end. Ask God to help you to trust Him even during life's darkest hours.

How did you feel when Naomi blamed God for her life's situation?

What can we learn from the ways Naomi dealt with her disappointment?

How can we be like Ruth to someone facing difficult circumstances?



## Today's Scripture:

2 Samuel 11:1-5; 12:7-10, 13-14, 18-20

## The Word

The biggest disappointments in my life have been in me. Maybe you can relate. I have walked down roads that I have regretted; I have burned bridges that I desperately wish I could cross; I have wounded others deeply; I have caused needless suffering upon myself. What do we do with the self-inflicted disappointments? What do we do when the only one to blame is looking back at you in the mirror? Do you ever think back on a moment in time and wish "if only I had made a different decision." There is one man's "if only" detailed out in Scripture. Before the disappointment, there was a choice. And he made the wrong one.

***2 Samuel 11:1-5***

*<sup>1</sup> In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, <sup>3</sup> and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" <sup>4</sup> Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (She had purified herself from her uncleanness.) Then she went back home. <sup>5</sup> The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant."*

**Verse 1-5:** This is sadly one of the more famous scandals of the Bible. David commits adultery. His sin suddenly multiplies as he then tries to get Bathsheba's husband, named Uriah, to sleep with her so everyone would believe it was his child. When that plan did not work, he had Uriah killed. Then, he took Bathsheba to be his wife. In a short amount of time, David the King became David the Killer. He had spiraled downward so far that he was hardly recognizable. David called "a man after God's own heart" had committed such heinous crimes that under the law, he could be rightfully put to death.

After the child was born, the Lord sent a prophet named Nathan to confront David.

## **2 Samuel 12:7-10**

*<sup>7</sup> Then Nathan said to David, "...This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. <sup>8</sup> I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. <sup>9</sup> Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. <sup>10</sup> Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.'*

**Verse 7-10:** David was confronted with the ugliness of his sin. He realized all that he had done. There was no denial of his past now. He was being looked at directly by Nathan, the prophet of God. He felt as if the Lord was piercing his very heart.

What David does next, gives us an example of what we are to do when we face the disappointments of ourselves. First, he confesses his sin.

## **2 Samuel 12:13a**

<sup>13</sup> Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."

Second, he takes by faith the forgiveness of the sin.

### **2 Samuel 12:13b**

Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.

Third, David recognized the consequences of his sin.

### **2 Samuel 12:14**

<sup>14</sup> But because by doing this you have made the enemies of the LORD show utter contempt, the son born to you will die."

Fourth, David prays that the consequences be removed, if it is the Lord's will.

### **2 Samuel 12:14**

<sup>15</sup> After Nathan had gone home, the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife had borne to David, and he became ill. <sup>16</sup> David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted and went into his house and spent the nights lying on the ground. <sup>17</sup> The elders of his household stood beside him to get him up from the ground, but he refused, and he would not eat any food with them.

Fifth, David accepts the will of the Lord, even though it meant enduring the consequences of his sin.

### **2 Samuel 12:18-20a**

<sup>18</sup> On the seventh day the child died. David's servants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they thought, "While the child was still living, we spoke to David but he would not listen to us. How can we tell him the child is dead? He may do something desperate."

<sup>19</sup> David noticed that his servants were whispering among themselves and he realized the child was dead. "Is the child dead?" he asked. "Yes," they replied, "he is dead." <sup>20</sup> Then David got up from the ground.

Sixth, David worshipped God.

### **2 Samuel 12:20b**

*After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped.*

Seventh, David went about his usual routine.

## **2 Samuel 12:20c**

*Then he went to his own house, and at his request they served him food, and he ate.*

David disappointed himself. Yet, he did not wallow in self degradation. Instead, he put himself on track to being in the Lord's will. The journey was not easy. The consequences were devastating. But David knew it was the only way to climb his way out of the pit of disappointment that he had dug himself.

## **Application**

If you have disappointed yourself, ask God to help you go through these steps below.

Confess your sin to God.

Write a prayer of thanksgiving for the forgiveness you have just received.

Analyze the possible consequences you may experience or have experienced because of the sin.

Ask God to remove the consequences of your sin. But if He will not, ask God to help you accept His will in the matter.

Worship God.

Establish how you will go about your usual routine.

Now that you have gone through these steps, you can help others walk this journey as well.



**Today's Scripture:**  
Daniel 1:1-17

**The Word**

### ***Daniel 1:1-7***

*<sup>1</sup> In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. <sup>2</sup> And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god. <sup>3</sup> Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring in some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility- <sup>4</sup> young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. <sup>5</sup> The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service. <sup>6</sup> Among these were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. <sup>7</sup> The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Beltshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.*

**Verse 1-7:** Do you think there was some disappointment in government affairs? These Jews experienced the downfall of their beloved nation. As if the trauma of war and the military loss was not enough, their religious center, the temple, was desecrated by the Babylonian army. Then, young men were removed from their families and forced to enter the ranks of this pagan king. I would think the word “disappointment” is an understatement.

How did one group of men respond? They took control of what they could.

### ***Daniel 1:8a***

*<sup>8</sup> But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine...*

**Verse 8-10:** Daniel could not change the fact that his nation had lost a war. He could not keep the Babylonian government from taking him captive. However, he could choose to keep his values despite the oppressing pressure. Daniel did not want to be defiled by the food. This refers to spiritual defilement for he knew that the food was sacrificed to the gods of Babylon. To eat this food would be agreeing with this practice. He believed it would defile him and his beliefs to partake in the meal. In his spirit and in good conscience, he made the choice to protect his religious beliefs. However, he was not desirous of going on a hunger strike. In order to resolve this dilemma, he humbled himself to the authority placed over him.

### ***Daniel 1:8-10***

*<sup>8</sup> But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. <sup>9</sup> Now God had caused the official to show favor and sympathy to Daniel, <sup>10</sup> but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you."*

**Verse 8-10:** David had built a relationship with this man. It is evident from the passage for the chief official favored Daniel. The Lord ultimately let this occur, but in addition to this, Daniel was a man who could be favored. If Daniel was arrogant, angry, or annoying this official would not like him so much. Instead, Daniel recognized him as an authority and treated him with proper respect. Despite his disappointment in being forced into this situation, Daniel did not heap abuse onto others. Instead, he was an example that shined in difficult circumstances, so much so that even his enemy became his friend.

## **Daniel 1:11-14**

*<sup>11</sup> Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, <sup>12</sup> "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. <sup>13</sup> Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see." <sup>14</sup> So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.*

**Verse 11-14:** Daniel did not pout or whine or complain. Instead, he showed calmness and wisdom in this situation. His reaction led the official to agree with his request.

## **Daniel 1:15-17**

*<sup>15</sup> At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. <sup>16</sup> So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead. <sup>17</sup> To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.*

**Verse 15-17:** God blessed these men because they stood firm in their convictions and beliefs. They allowed the Sovereign God of the universe to control situations which were out of their control. Yes, they were let down by the governmental authority that they were now subjected to. However, they recognized the ultimate authority belonged to the Lord. By honoring Him in disappointing times, they received the blessings of God!

## **Application**

Praise God for His sovereign power over every earthly authority.
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What ways do we usually respond when we are disappointed in the authorities placed over us?

When we are disappointed in the authority placed over us (parental, work, or even government), how should we respond?

When we are in the middle of disappointment how can we decide which beliefs or opinions will we take a stand for and which will we just let go and not address?

How can we appropriately bring our beliefs or opinions to the attention of the authorities?



### **Today's Scripture:**

Habakkuk 1:2-4, 5-6, 12-17; 2:1-3. 8; 3:17-19

## **The Word**

Today, we are going to discuss a disappointment that is rarely mentioned. Yet, if we were all honest, we have battled it at some point in our lives. Let us let down our guard and talk about being disappointed in God.

“Blasphemy,” some may yell. Yet, I just think they are not being honest. For the pages of Scripture reveal this feeling in people’s lives. They were honest enough to share about it so that we may learn how to deal with it.

### ***Habakkuk 1:2-4***

*<sup>2</sup> How long, O LORD, must I call for help,  
but you do not listen?*

*Or cry out to you, "Violence!"  
but you do not save?*

*<sup>3</sup> Why do you make me look at injustice?*

*Why do you tolerate wrong?  
Destruction and violence are before me;  
there is strife, and conflict abounds.*

*<sup>4</sup> Therefore the law is paralyzed,*

*and justice never prevails.  
The wicked hem in the righteous,  
so that justice is perverted.*

**Verse 2-4:** Habakkuk was a prophet, a minister, of God. How could he question the Lord? Yet, look at his complaint against God. He feels like he prays and prays and nothing happens. He looks around at the evil around him and accuses God of doing nothing. He even lets God know the consequences of His “inaction”. Habakkuk is disappointed in God and he lets the Lord know it.

How does God react? Is He mad? No, He answers the honest prayer.

### ***Habakkuk 1:5-6***

<sup>5</sup> *"Look at the nations and watch—  
and be utterly amazed.  
For I am going to do something in your days  
that you would not believe,  
even if you were told.*

<sup>6</sup> *I am raising up the Babylonians,  
that ruthless and impetuous people,  
who sweep across the whole earth  
to seize dwelling places not their own.*

**Verse 5-6:** Habakkuk was disappointed in the fact that God was not dealing with the treachery of Israel. God answers his prayer by allowing Habakkuk to know that He will judge the Jews and His wrath will be shown by allowing the nation of Babylon to conquer the chosen nation of Israel.

This answer, however, did not please Habakkuk. He is disappointed in God's answer and once again shares His opinion with the Lord.

### ***Habakkuk 1:12-2:1***

<sup>12</sup> *O LORD, are you not from everlasting?  
My God, my Holy One, we will not die.  
O LORD, you have appointed them to execute judgment;  
O Rock, you have ordained them to punish.*

<sup>13</sup> *Your eyes are too pure to look on evil;  
you cannot tolerate wrong.  
Why then do you tolerate the treacherous?*

- Why are you silent while the wicked  
swallow up those more righteous than themselves?*
- <sup>14</sup> *You have made men like fish in the sea,  
like sea creatures that have no ruler.*
- <sup>15</sup> *The wicked foe pulls all of them up with hooks,  
he catches them in his net,  
he gathers them up in his dragnet;  
and so he rejoices and is glad.*
- <sup>16</sup> *Therefore he sacrifices to his net  
and burns incense to his dragnet,  
for by his net he lives in luxury  
and enjoys the choicest food.*
- <sup>17</sup> *Is he to keep on emptying his net,  
destroying nations without mercy?*
- <sup>1</sup> *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.*

**Verse 12-17:** Habakkuk does not understand why God would allow the evil and wicked and pagan nation of Babylon to conquer Israel. It was true that Israel had strayed from God but their sins seemed righteous compared to the land of Babylon. This kingdom was mercilessly conquering nations and worshipping their military prowess and skill. Habakkuk is upset about the thought of these cruel and godless people conquering the Jews. After he voices his complaint, he listens to the answer of God.

### ***Habakkuk 2:2-3, 8***

- <sup>2</sup> *Then the LORD replied:  
"Write down the revelation  
and make it plain on tablets  
so that a herald may run with it.*
- <sup>3</sup> *For the revelation awaits an appointed time;  
it speaks of the end  
and will not prove false.  
Though it linger, wait for it;  
it will certainly come and will not delay...*
- <sup>8</sup> *Because you have plundered many nations,  
the peoples who are left will plunder you.*

*For you have shed man's blood;  
you have destroyed lands and cities and everyone in them.*

**Verse 2-3, 8:** The Lord answered Habakkuk's complaint. He let the prophet know that an answer would come to pass in God's perfect timing. The revelation was that Babylon will be destroyed just as she destroyed others. Habakkuk was disappointed because he did not understand the entire plan of God. Now, that God had answered his cries, this prophet had a new viewpoint of events that he could not comprehend.

### ***Habakkuk 3:17-19***

*<sup>17</sup> 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,  
<sup>18</sup> yet I will rejoice in the LORD,  
I will be joyful in God my Savior.  
<sup>19</sup> The Sovereign LORD is my strength;  
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,  
he enables me to go on the heights.  
For the director of music. On my stringed instruments.*

**Verse 17-19:** Disappointments in life will come. We may not understand why God did not prevent them since He was able to do so. However, we can choose to focus on the circumstances that we do not fully grasp, which only leads to bitterness. Or we can find joy, strength, endurance in the Lord. One leads to complaining against God for the mountainous problem before us, the other leads us to scaling the mountain to see a tremendous view. The choice is ours.

## **Application**

Ask God to show you where you may feel disappointment in Him. Be honest with him about your thoughts and feelings. He already knows all about it, this is helpful for you.
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Why is the topic of our disappointment with God rarely discussed?

How can denying our feelings of disappointment be harmful to ourselves as well as to others?

How can sharing the truth of our thoughts be beneficial for both ourselves and others?

What are reasons that we may feel disappointed in God?

How can we go from disappointment in God to joy in the Lord?