Habakkuk's Complaints

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The prophet Habakkuk complained to the Lord, "Everywhere I look I see violence and misery. The wicked have control of everything. There is no justice anywhere. How long, O Lord, do I have to cry out for help before you listen?"

The Lord replied, "Watch and be amazed. I have raised up the Babylonians. They are a cruel and violent nation. They do as they like and no one can stop them. They will sweep across the whole earth and conquer it."

"Lord! How can you, the Holy One, use the Babylonians to punish us for our sins? They are worse sinners than we are. They treat people like animals, and they worship their own military strength. Will you stand idly by as they wipe us out?"

"I will tell you what the future holds, but you'll have to patient and wait. I will turn things around in the end. Babylon has been built on greed, corruption, oppression, murder, immorality, wastefulness, and idol worship. But in time I will turn all this injustice against them. Meanwhile, the righteous will live by their faith, and the earth will be filled with people who know and honor the Lord."

Habakkuk prayed, "Lord, you have saved us many times in the past. Help us again in this time of need. I will wait for disaster to strike our invaders. Even if all our crops fail, even if all our livestock die, I will rejoice in you, O Lord. You are my salvation."