

A Time to Talk and a Time to Trust



Every year-end, I read by schedule into the “dark realm” of the Minor Prophets with all their confusing language, unknown symbolisms, and blistering rebukes; and every year I find blessing in the messages of these faithful servants. This year was no exception.¹

In Habakkuk, a name meaning “to embrace,” you find a prophet trying to embrace or understand God and his own circumstances; he does exactly what I would do - ask God questions.

The first question in 1:1-4 is “God, why are you allowing wicked men to prosper in Israel?” Since Israel is God’s chosen people, since God hates wickedness, and since God should therefore be dealing with the wicked and is not, “Is God just?” This is the same question we may ask when we hear that another act of terror has claimed innocent life or a natural disaster has destroyed a community. God’s answer shocks Habakkuk: “I am going to judge Israel by giving them to the Babylonians.” (1:5-11)

This quickly brings a second question in 1:12-2:1: “But God, how can you judge Israel’s wickedness with a nation much more wicked than Israel?” Now the question is “Are you fair, God?” Many of us grapple with this especially when bad things happen to us: when we get sick, or a dear one to us is sick, or death takes one from us, or we lose possessions or money. We are tempted to look up and say, “God, is this fair?” Why is that? Most likely, because we see ourselves as essentially good and therefore deserving of God’s blessing. Like Habakkuk thought : “We’re not as bad as they are!”

Again, God answers Habakkuk’s question saying He also will judge Babylon for their wickedness. Case closed. For Habakkuk, his mouth is now closed:


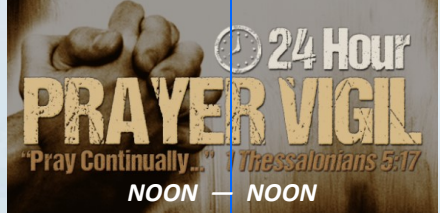
***“But the LORD is in his holy temple;
let all the earth keep silence before him.” (2:20)***

Although God answers Habakkuk’s questions and does not rebuke him for asking (ref. James 1:5), there are times when we must simply trust God rather than asking questions. Listen to Habakkuk’s closing prayer of trust:

“Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail, and the fields yield no food...and there be no herd in the stalls, yet will I rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.”

We do not know what this new year will bring with it, but Habakkuk reminds us that there are times to talk and there are times simply to trust.
Pastor Rusty

JANUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	THURSDAY	Friday	Saturday
 <p>CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE! https://www.blueridgefbc.org</p>			<p>ROMANS 11:36 “For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen.”</p>	2 Aerobics—5:30 pm	3	4
5	6 Aerobics—5:30 pm Deacons’ Meeting 7 pm	7	8 Church wide Prayer Meeting 6 pm Nursery Provided Choir Rehearsal 7:15	9 PRECEPT—9 am Aerobics—5:30 pm	10 	11
12 Handbells 4 pm	13 Aerobics 5:30 pm	14 Heart to Hands 10 am	15 Regular Wednesday Schedule Resumes	16 PRECEPT—9 am Aerobics—5:30 pm	17 Art Connection 6:30—9:00 pm	18
19 Assisted Living Ministry 2 pm Handbells 4 pm	20 Aerobics—5:30 pm	21 Men’s Prayer Time 6:30 am Fellowship Hall	22	23 PRECEPT—9 am Aerobics—5:30 pm	24	25 S.A.L.T. Saturday
26 Handbells 4 pm Chili Cook-off Fellowship 5:30 pm	27 Aerobics—5:30 pm	28	29	30 PRECEPT—9 am VBS Jumpstart Regional Training 7—8:30 pm Hosted by BRFC	31 Church-wide Dinner “Faith Raising Sanctuary Project” 6 pm	

JANUARY SCRIPTURE VERSE - ROMANS 11:36
“For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.
To Him be glory forever. Amen.”

WINTER WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sun.	9:30 am	Sunday Bible Study
	10:45 am	Morning Worship
Wed.	4:00 pm	Handbell Practice
	6:00 pm	Evening Worship
	3:30 pm	Painting with a Purpose (1st grade & up)
	5:00 pm	Dinner is served
	5:30 pm	Grades 1-6 Kids in the Word, Children's Choir, Children in Action
		Age 3—Kindergarten Bible Time/Preschool Choir
		Youth Bible Study—A/Y Center
	5:45-7 pm	Prayer Meeting/Adult Bible Study
	7:15 pm	ESL Class
Thurs.	9:00 am	Adult Choir Practice
		Precepts

DEACON OF THE WEEK

5 MIKE GEORGE
12 ED BRANTLEY
19 JERRY GORDON
26 WILLIAM STONE

SECURITY

PHILIP ARNALL
BOB BRADY
ED BRANTLEY
LARRY WIETHOP

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Blessings on Your Special Day!

6	Bob Richardson	
7	Frannie Petrello	
8	Johnnie Bradley	
9	Jude Thomas	
14	Kim Haight	
15	Abiagael Shields	
16	Linda Womack	Adrian Martinez
18	Jim Taylor	
20	Bailey Richardson	
22	Steve & Nelda Bailey (A)	Susan Dressler
23	Mallory Thigpen	
24	Cody Collins	
25	Blair Deal	
27	Ryan Beavers	Matt Queen
30	Rusty Thomas	
31	Larry Wiethop	



THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 7:00 PM—8:30 PM

WORSHIPING WITH CHILDREN: TIPS FOR PARENTS

Here at FBC we encourage family worship and ask that children 4 years and older join their families in our worship times. Our goal is for your child to grow in Christ and in their own concept of worship by watching you, their parent, and other believers join together as the body of Christ.

However, it can be challenging at times. Here are some tips for parents and pew moms.

- 1) Prepare ahead of time. Talk about worship at home and how it is important to your family and to God. Make sure children get adequate rest on Saturday evening and breakfast Sunday morning.
- 2) Make sure your child uses the rest room before worship begins. Most children can sit through a regular length service.
- 3) Sit near the front. Children do better when they can see more clearly.
- 4) Be sure to pick up a bulletin and help the child follow along.
- 5) Worship bags are available for preschool/children through grade 3 in the hallway by the elevator.
- 6) Save the activities in the worship bag for the sermon time. Before that show children how to participate in the prayer time, singing time and offering. They learn by doing.
- 7) Take any pages and crafts with you so that you can talk about worship after you get home.

FBCBR 907 East Main St. Blue Ridge, GA 30513
brfbc@blueridgefbc.org 706.632.2763
Bob Richardson, Senior Pastor bob.richardson@blueridgefbc.org 912.550.1842
Rusty Thomas, Associate Pastor rusty.thomas@blueridgefbc.org 706.258.2654
Steve Brown, Minister of Music wsteve.brown@gmail.com 678.524.8037



And just like that, 2019 has quickly come to an end. When you reflect, an entire decade has come to an end. As I reflect on how much in my life has changed in the past decade, it causes me to realize the scriptural truth that “our lives are but a vapor.” Through it all God has been faithful! We welcome the year 2020 and enter a new decade together as a church family. I have never been more excited in all of my years of ministry than I am about the future of God’s work here at FBC Blue Ridge. I praise God for our ministry team, the direction of our music ministry, children and students, our missions planning and outreach opportunities. All so that we can shine the light of Christ here in Blue Ridge and to the ends of the Earth. Lord willing, by the end of the year our church will have reached into India, Puerto Rico, Refugee ministry in Clarkston, Georgia, and Peru. We are planning ahead for ministry in 2021 back into Japan and also reaching into the Middle East as we seek to join work alongside Bryan and Allie Ethington with their family in Israel. We will pray often together, sing together, hear the Word together and serve together so that Blue Ridge and the world know that Jesus is Lord. May God let it happen!

Happy New Year!

Pastor Bob