

KEC ORDER OF SERVICE/SERMON OUTLINE 10th Oct 2021 (KEC SERVICE Online)

Please take note that this Sunday's service begins at **8.30am**, not 9am.

We will not be showing any new Kids' Church Videos for the moment. Please do join one of our Sunday School groups instead! Contact Abang Trang for more info.

You can access the livestream at https://www.facebook.com/bemkec/live_videos/

Or on Youtube here: <https://youtube.com/bemkec/live>

8.30am – Livestream starts

Livestream link should be available by 8.25am latest.

1. CALL TO WORSHIP – James 4:7-12

2. WORSHIP in SONG (with Alison Nicholas)

SONG 1: King Forevermore (God the Uncreated One)

SONG 2: O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer

3. Teaching Video: How the Bible has informed my thinking on justice issues (Jenny Yang)

4. Prayers

5. Bible reading: Habakkuk 1:1-2:1

1 The prophecy that Habakkuk the prophet received.

² How long, LORD, must I call for help,
but you do not listen?

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

³ Why do you make me look at injustice?
Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?

Destruction and violence are before me;
there is strife, and conflict abounds.

⁴ Therefore the law is paralysed,
and justice never prevails.

The wicked hem in the righteous,
so that justice is perverted.

⁵ '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.

⁶ I am raising up the Babylonians,^[a]
that ruthless and impetuous people,
who sweep across the whole earth
to seize dwellings not their own.

⁷ They are a feared and dreaded people;
they are a law to themselves
and promote their own honour.

⁸ Their horses are swifter than leopards,
fiercer than wolves at dusk.

Their cavalry gallops headlong;
their horsemen come from afar.

They fly like an eagle swooping to devour;

⁹ they all come intent on violence.

Their hordes^[b] advance like a desert wind
and gather prisoners like sand.

¹⁰ They mock kings
and scoff at rulers.

They laugh at all fortified cities;
by building earthen ramps they capture them.

¹¹ Then they sweep past like the wind and go on –
guilty people, whose own strength is their god.’

¹² LORD, are you not from everlasting?

My God, my Holy One, you^[c] will never die.

You, LORD, have appointed them to execute judgment;
you, my Rock, have ordained them to punish.

¹³ Your eyes are too pure to look on evil;
you cannot tolerate wrongdoing.

Why then do you tolerate the treacherous?

Why are you silent while the wicked
swallow up those more righteous than themselves?

¹⁴ You have made people like the fish in the sea,
like the sea creatures that have no ruler.

¹⁵ The wicked foe pulls all of them up with hooks,
he catches them in his net,

he gathers them up in his drag-net;
and so he rejoices and is glad.

¹⁶ Therefore he sacrifices to his net
and burns incense to his drag-net,

for by his net he lives in luxury
and enjoys the choicest food.

¹⁷ Is he to keep on emptying his net,
destroying nations without mercy?

2 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.^[d]

Footnotes

- a. [Habakkuk 1:6](#) Or *Chaldeans*
 - b. [Habakkuk 1:9](#) The meaning of the Hebrew for this word is uncertain.
 - c. [Habakkuk 1:12](#) An ancient Hebrew scribal tradition; Masoretic Text *we*
 - d. [Habakkuk 2:1](#) Or *and what to answer when I am rebuked*
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Sermon outline: How long Lord? (Habakkuk 1:1-2:1)

What gets us worked up

Welcome to the world of Habakkuk!

Know remarkably little about him

His book is quite different from other prophetic books

Eavesdropping

These 3 weeks: from why → waiting → woes → worship
Today's passage

When all we see is injustice and wrongdoing, what do we do?

“Why do you make me LOOK at injustice?”

v.3-4 A glimpse into Habakkuk's society

“The law is paralysed”

Doubly worse when we realise injustice and wrongdoing is taking place amongst God's people

But it isn't just that mere injustice exists! (v.2)

What Habakkuk is doing: he struggles/wrestles with God!

The Bible's permission

When we lament

"LOOK at the nations and watch – and be utterly amazed"

v.5-6 What God is doing

v7-11 What the Babylonians are like

Look again at God and remember what he's like

He works in really unexpected ways, using the most unexpected means

"Your eyes are too pure to LOOK on evil, you cannot tolerate wrongdoing"

Something troubling

Babylonians compared with God's people

From “why God, are you not doing anything” to “Why God, are you doing *this?!?*”

Holding God to account

Can't make sense of this apparent inconsistency

The plain truth of living as a Christian

“I will LOOK to see what He will say to me”

Waiting for God to answer

To who else can He/we go?

Habakkuk's convictions

Unresolved tension

3 things from today's passage:

1. Don't be afraid to express your emotions
2. Know that God works both against evil and through evil
3. Be prepared to wait

(unless you're not someone who trusts in Jesus today)

ANOUNCEMENTS

- **Church reopening update**
- **Connect cards**
- **Giving**
- Next week, we will have Rev. Tim Nicholls preaching to us from Habakkuk 2:2-20.
- **The "Women of the Word" book group** with Sharon Ling will continue **today on Zoom at 10.30am after Sunday service.**
- **Prayer Meeting** this Wednesday – on Zoom till further notice

BENEDICTION

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Romans 15:13