

Sungai Way-Subang Methodist Church

# Sermon

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## **WATCHMEN IN THE NATION**

How to pray in troubled times?

Hab 1:1 – 2:4

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**6 March 2022**



# **Watchmen in the Nation – How to pray in troubled times?**

6 March 2022

**SSMC**

**Habakkuk 1:1 – 2:4**

# Historical Background

- 612 Fall of Nineveh and the Assyrian Empire;  
Babylonian Empire now dominant
- c.610  $\pm$  5 Habakkuk's message
- 605 1<sup>st</sup> Deportation of Jews to Babylon (Daniel &  
3 friends)
- 597 2<sup>nd</sup> Deportation (Ezekiel)
- 586 Destruction of Jerusalem and Temple;  
3<sup>rd</sup> Deportation

# **Habakkuk's Perplexity: Hab. 1:1-17**

1:1-4      Habakkuk's complaint

1:5-11     God's answer

1:12-17    Habakkuk's perplexity and further  
complaint

# Jesus at Gethsemane:

“Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?”  
(Mat 26:53-54)

# How NOT to pray!

- First, most of our prayers for Malaysia are based on our own assumptions about what we think God should do.
- Second, much of what we ask in prayer is self-focused, based on what we think would be good for us personally, our families and our own community.

# The Watchman: Hab. 2:1-4

2:1 Go to the watch tower – as a watchman should do!

Habakkuk was lost spiritually – he had to find his bearings once again.

Waiting on God is the key to intercession.

2:2-3 He saw what God is doing – Babylon will be His instrument to refine Israel!

He learned to wait and pray for God's purposes to unfold.

2:4 “...the righteous shall live by his faith” – the righteous will live by trusting God even when the world is out of control!



# Two lessons in prayer – How to pray?

## Lesson 1:

We must seek to know God's will and purpose when we pray.

For that we need to wait upon the Lord, to go to the watch tower!

## Lesson 2:

God's primary concern is the advancement of His kingdom and not the advancement of any of our earthly kingdoms!

For Malaysia, His primary concern is His church, its well-being, its growth and maturity.

# How then do we pray for our nation?

- Pray for Malaysia's well-being; 1 Tim 2:1-2  
God is concerned for the nation, even if that is not  
be His primary concern.

- Pray for the well-being and revival of the church

God is primarily concerned with His church and the gospel's advance.

Could it be that God working in such a way that the people of this country will not look to their leaders and politics for answers and for their future?

- Pray that the church will be ready when God manifests His glory in this nation.

This involves:

1:13 Holy living

2:1 Discerning God's purposes through prayer

2:4 Living by faith