

A landscape of cracked, dry earth under a cloudy sky, with a body of water in the distance. The foreground is dominated by a vast expanse of parched, cracked soil, with deep fissures forming a complex, irregular pattern. The ground is a mix of brown and tan hues, with some small, sparse green plants beginning to grow in the cracks. In the middle ground, a calm body of water stretches across the horizon, reflecting the light from the sky. The background features rolling green hills under a sky filled with soft, white and grey clouds. The overall atmosphere is one of desolation and drought.

IF GOD IS ABLE

“You heard Your children then, You hear Your children now, You answered prayers back then, And You will answer now, You were providing then, You are providing now, You moved in power then God, move in power now, You were a healer then, You are a healer now, You are the same God.”

-Same God

Cancer disappearing, mental health restored, families reunited, addicts finally free, cities in revival... “Don’t you tell me he can’t do it.”

-Too Good to Not Believe

If God is able, then
why doesn't he?



INJUSTICE & IDOLATRY

**FINAL DECADES of
ISRAEL'S SOUTHERN KINGDOM**

Habakkuk

1-3

Habakkuk begins: **How long, Lord, must I call for help but you do not listen or save?** Why do you force me to look at injustice and suffering? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? Oppression and violence are right in front of me. **Nothing is getting better, it just seems to be getting worse.** Justice isn't coming, the wicked and offenders are getting away.

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God answers: Just wait and see - I am doing something in your days that you will not believe when you hear about it. Look! **I am raising up the fierce and terrifying nation of the Babylonians to conquer and punish you.**

Habakkuk: **God, are you nuts??** You are sending them? That's worse than what's already happening! You can't be serious! **Are you not holy?** Are you not pure and righteous? Why are you sitting there silent and doing nothing? I thought you said you can't tolerate evil - where is your justice?? **I'm going to sit here and see how you answer my complaints.**

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God: "Write this down, but it's not happening yet. **You're going to have to wait for it.** It may feel delayed but it will come and it won't be late. **The righteous one will live by faith.**"

Habakkuk: "Lord, I stand in awe of your deeds.
Do what you do, in your own time. In your wrath
remember mercy! I will celebrate in the Lord; I
will rejoice in the God of my salvation! **The Lord
my Lord is my strength.**"

-Habakkuk 1-3

In his pain, suffering,
anger, and hurt,
Habakkuk is praying.

Could it be that the book of Habakkuk,
the life of Job, the lament of Jeremiah,
the grievances of the Psalms...all these
are preserved in Scripture to show
God can handle our pain?

Unconditional,
faithful,
wrestling.

-Tim Keller

“They (those who are suffering) pray, not in faith, but out of faithfulness, out of loyalty to a God they haven’t seen or heard from in a long, lonely time.”

-James Buchanan



“I have seen the face of God, and yet my life was spared.”

-Jacob, Genesis 32

“I sought the Lord, and he heard,
and he whispered.”

-Addilyn McPherson

“With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.”

-Psalmist and Apostle Peter

God doesn't seem to
mind waiting.

“Prayer and waiting are intrinsically linked, joined at the hip. Prayer makes no sense apart from waiting. Prayer is about being made in the likeness of Christ. If prayer was only about getting things - getting even, getting rich, getting well, getting justice - then we would call it something else. We have lots of names to describe the quest and method for getting those things: magic, medicine, capitalism, lobbying... There is simply no substitute for becoming like Christ other than being with Christ, and especially with Him in solitude and suffering and sorrow.”

-James Buchanan, *Your God is Too Safe*

Could it be that in your suffering
Jesus is inviting you to **be with**
him and **become more like him?**

In the garden, Jesus is
unconditionally faithful.

On the cross, Jesus is in a full
on **wrestling** match.

“The wounds we inflict and the wounds inflicted on us ultimately find their mark, literally find their mark, in Christ. **These wounds we give and receive are gathered into the wounds He took.**”

-James Buchanan

Walking with someone who is suffering is a challenging and delicate place to be!

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We care so much that we want to have a clear answer.
And most of the time we just can't.

“In the same way the Spirit also helps us in our weakness, because we do not know what to pray for as we should, **but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with inexpressible groanings.**”

-Romans 8:26

If God is able, then
why doesn't he?

I don't know.

“If we believe God is the good and wise creator then evil doesn’t make sense. If we believe we can make sense of it then we’re actually saying God has created a world where evil can exist which is a dangerous place to be.”

-N.T. Wright

“In Scripture there doesn’t seem to be wrestling with earthquakes and if that means there’s a God, but that **God is making all things right, albeit in ways that we may not understand or that makes sense.**”

-N.T. Wright

God is making all things new,
whether we see it, feel it,
understand it, or not.

“I've been readin' in the Bible, 'bout the ending of the age. And one thing that's for certain, it grows closer every day. But I am not concerned about the way it's gonna end. 'Cause I've read the back of the book and we win. I've read the back of the book and we win, no more livin' in darkness we'll be living at home again. You see there's no need to worry about it if you're born again. **I've read the back of the book and we win.**”

-The Cathedrals, *I've Read the Back of the Book*

The Bible is the greatest book
of all and **we're living in the
middle chapters.**

“Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God’s dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God. **He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more,** because the previous things have passed away. Then the one seated on the throne said, **“Look, I am making everything new.”** He also said, “Write, because these words are faithful and true.”

And there will no longer be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. **Night will be no more;** people will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, because the Lord God will give them light, and they will reign forever and ever. **He who testifies about these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."**

-Rev. 21:3-5; 22:3-5, 20

If God is able, then why doesn't
he...right now? I don't know.

If God is able, then why doesn't
he...eventually? He will.