

A reading from the book of Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 and 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

1 The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

The Prophet's Complaint

² O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?

Or cry to you 'Violence!'
and you will not save?

³ Why do you make me see wrongdoing
and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.

⁴ So the law becomes slack
and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous—
therefore judgement comes forth perverted.

God's Reply to the Prophet's Complaint

2 I will stand at my watch-post,
and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me,
and what he^a will answer concerning my complaint.

² Then the LORD answered me and said:

Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.

³ For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come, it will not delay.

⁴ Look at the proud!
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faith.^[b]

Salutation

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

² Grace to you and peace from God our^[a] Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving

³ We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters,^[b] as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. ⁴ Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring.

¹¹ To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfil by his power every good resolve and work of faith, ¹² so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**This is the word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God**

Woodbury United Methodist Church 4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT 06798