



## The Words Of The Prophet - Week 1

### “The Burden”

Habbakuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

God’s Ways Might Not Be Ours But They Are For Us

***In the weeks leading up to Advent we’re going to be listening to the voices of the Old Testament prophets from the Lectionary readings, as they begin to prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah.***

*Biblical prophets aren’t predictors of the future, they hope to shape it.*

*Prophetic imagination - helps us see beyond our own reality*

***Today we’re going to be hearing from a prophet that had some hard questions for God...***

***What do you do when bad things happen in your life...***

*And God seems to not seem to care all that much about your suffering?*

### ***GOD’S WAYS MIGHT NOT BE OURS, BUT THEY ARE FOR US***

#### ***Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4***

#### ***Before we read—some things we need to know***

- *Habakkuk prophesied in the early 600’s - late 500’s B.C.E.*
- *Not much is known about him—Name: “Wrestle” or “Embrace”*
- *A story in Bel & The Dragon—one of the most interesting prophet’s tales*
- *Habakkuk addresses God for the people—a relationship built on trust*
- *Shallow optimism is not even close to the Shalom or peace of God*
- *You don’t avoid troubles, trials and tribulations—you overcome them*
- *Discomfort should not be sought, but a meaningful life will find it.*
- *God can redeem even what we believe to be wicked or evil intent.*

***God’s ways are not our ways, but a “right” relationship with God gives us the peace to know that we will be made right no matter what occurs.***

#### ***Things You Need To Know When Things Get Bad***

- *Jesus: God never promises an easy life—God offers an abundant one.*
- *God can handle your anger, your questions, your burdens*
- *No matter what you’re facing, it doesn’t get the last word, not the last thing.*

### ***GOD’S WAYS MIGHT NOT BE OURS, BUT THEY ARE FOR US***



## SERMON EXTRAS & FURTHER READING

### **FOR FURTHER READING:**

***The Prophetic Imagination***

*Walter Brueggeman*

***The Prophets***

*Abraham J. Heschel*

***Biblical Prophecy: Perspectives for Christian Theology, et. al***

*Ellen F. Davis*

### **SUBSCRIBE TO THE PASTORCAST PODCAST**

PastorCast Podcasts can be found by:

- Listening online through the “Audio” page of Pastor Leon’s website [leonbloder.org](http://leonbloder.org) or [leonbloder.com](http://leonbloder.com)
- Searching for “PastorCast Weekly Podcast” in iTunes

*You can also subscribe to our podcasts from iTunes and receive them automatically.*

***Subscribe to the Pastor Leon’s Daily Devo emails through our church website.***

*The daily devotionals will be posted on Pastor Leon’s blog, linked on his Tumblr account, the church’s Facebook Page and Twitter.*