

Habakkuk 2:14-20; 3:1-6

“WHY GOD ALLOWS BAD THINGS TO HAPPEN, PART 3”

Habakkuk had awful things going on in his time, and he asks God, How can you allow these bad things to happen?

This topic parallels our time. History repeats itself. We know very little about Habakkuk. There is a hint in the 3rd chapter that he may have been a Levite and a singer. He was a prophet around 620 B.C. Israel has become so corrupt that God has allowed an invasion by the Syrians and assimilated the Israelites into their culture.

Babel has risen to power at this time. He lived between King Josiah who was a very good king, loved God, loved people, and was a very good person. After he died, bad kings came along and took Israel down. Bad leaders take a nation down. When a nation turns away from God as we have, it falls.

Habakkuk 2:14-20

- 14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. *Even after God's judgement upon Israel and then the Chaldeans when they went too far in chastising the Israelites, the knowledge of God will be known all over the planet. This is prophetic in nature and has not happened yet.*
- 15 ¶ Woe unto him that gives his neighbor drink, that puts thy bottle to *him*, and makes *him* drunken also, that thou may look on their nakedness! *He's issueing a warning to the Chaldeans: if you get your neighbor drunk and take his clothes off and embarrass him, that is abusive treatment and you are not a good neighbor.*
- 16 Thou art filled with shame for glory: drink thou also, and let thy foreskin be uncovered: the cup of the LORD'S right hand shall be turned unto thee, and shameful spewing *shall be* on thy glory. *This is a Hebraism: it means the most shameful thing that can happen to you. You're gonna reap what you sow. You will be as embarrassed as you are making your victims. God says when you get through with what you're doing, you will yourself be in pure and total shame. Again, you reap what you sow.*
- 17 For the violence of Lebanon shall cover thee, and the spoil of beasts, *which* made them afraid, because of men's blood, and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein. *Remember, these invasions of Nebuchadnezzar of Egypt, he had to continually cross through Lebanon and Judea and conquer and reconquer them every time he went through. The warfare that was carried on in this area – look at all the violence and destruction you have committed.*
- 18 What profits the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, that the maker of his work trusts therein, to make dumb idols? *What good are all these statues of wooden gods / goddesses? They are not alive. You are worshipping lies. In this country we don't have a lot of pagan idols with wooden statues set up. We have stars: rock stars, actors / actresses, money, material goods like cars, houses, clothes, and jewelry, and power itself. Anything that gets the affection that belongs to God is an idol and is wrong / sinful.*
- 19 Woe unto him that says to the wood, Awake; to the dumb stone, Arise, it shall teach! Behold, it *is* laid over with gold and silver, and *there is* no breath at all in the midst of it. *You go there to your temples and get these statues to help you out, to teach you and guide you and protect you. They are just inanimate objects. They can do nothing. It is like worshipping a rock: totally worthless and a waste of time. It is worshipping a lie (Satan).*
- 20 But the LORD *is* in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him. *This is the way earth should be, kneeling in reverence to God, quietly. This is prophetic in nature, it will happen in the future. Today, like in Habakkuk's day, people are afraid to get up in the morning because they don't know what to expect because they worship money. If you worship God, you wouldn't be worried at all.*

Chapter 3:1-6 This chapter is a song that was sung by the Levites.

- 1 ¶ A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet upon Shigionoth.
- 2 O LORD, I have heard thy speech, *and* was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy. *Habakkuk received his answer from God and he was so*

taken aback by what he was told, and he was very afraid. He asked God while He chastised the Israelites, please don't forget His mercy as He did it.

- 3 ¶ God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise. *If you take these 2 locations, Teman is around Eden east of Israel, and Paran is south. From that area, God came from Teman (past tense): I interpret this as 3 men came out of there chosen by God to do God's program: Abraham, Moses, and Joshua. All 3 came up from the Teman area, and God came with them up from this area. "Selah" is a musical pause.*
- 4 And *his* brightness was as the light; he had horns *coming* out of his hand: and there *was* the hiding of his power. *The brightness of light is God's glory. It's too great for man to look upon. The horns coming out of his hands are rays of light, like the morning sun filtering through the trees. This was so bright that it was hiding God's ultimate power. Man cannot see God's full glory. It is so great man cannot witness it in his human form.*
- 5 Before him went the pestilence, and burning coals went forth at his feet. *This is talking about God's judgement now.*
- 6 He stood, and measured the earth: he beheld, and drove asunder the nations; and the everlasting mountains were scattered, the perpetual hills did bow: his ways *are* everlasting. *God is marching through the judgment, then He stops and takes note of the nations around Him.*