

Habakkuk 3

Habakkuk begins by questioning God: Why won't you hear me? Help me? Where are You?

1. God responds that He is doing something Habakkuk could not comprehend.
2. And He was right.
 - a. What he revealed to him sent him into a tailspin.
 - b. This is not the God Habakkuk thought He was...but by faith, he wrestles with God and waits on God.
3. God in His mercy reveals to Habakkuk the end of the story in chapter 2
 - a. Babylon will fall
 - b. But the righteous will live

Now we come to chapter 3. In this final chapter, we see Habakkuk go to God in prayer. v1

1. This is common sense. Pray!
2. This is a special prayer...meant to be sung
 - a. Shigionoth...an emotional poem meant to be sung with excitement
 - b. Meant to be sung with accompaniment v19b

What does Habakkuk sing to God in prayer?

I. He Requests v2

1. I have heard what you have said and I know what you are about to do and Lord to be honest, I am afraid. v16
2. His challenging dialogue with God has given him a deeper knowledge and understanding of the ways of God.
3. It is as if he was saying, I heard, but now I see.
4. Job 42:5 *"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You"*

In the midst of the years...while you have us under judgement, in exile, under the hand of the Chaldeans...

1. Revive Your Work

- a. Pick up with us where you left off
- b. Finish what you started in the garden, in Abraham, and with David.

2. Reveal Your Word

- a. Don't leave us in the dark.
- b. Remind Your people of Your promises and show them You are fulfilling them
- c. Make what You are doing known

3. Remember Your Mercy in Wrath

- a. He seems to be saying temper Your wrath with mercy.
- b. Remember who You said You were?
- c. Exodus 34:6 *Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth"*

II. He Reflects v3-15

He stops to reflect upon the power and glory and might of His God. He finds comfort in who God is and what God has done.

1. We see 6 things about this God
2. We will move through them quickly

He remembers that His God....

1. Shines v3-5

2. Stands v6a

- a. Armies either push forward to gain ground or they fall back in retreat
- b. But the Lord simply stood and faced the enemy unafraid and unthreatened.

3. Surveys v6b

- a. In fact. He calmly measured the earth as a sign that He possessed it.
- b. He is assessing what belongs to Him before He acts.

4. Startles v6c-12

- a. He startles mountains until they shatter v6c1
- b. He startles hills until they collapse v6c2
- c. His ways are everlasting...we know that He is as we saw in 1:12...but His ways are eternally fixed as well. v6c3
- d. He startles entire nations...Cushan and Midian. v6c4-7
- e. Habakkuk reflects back on how God, in the past, had upset nations for Israel.
 1. Egyptians drowning in their chariots v8-9a
 2. A sudden rainstorm turned a battlefield into a swamp and left the enemy's chariots useless when Deborah and Barak overcame Sisera and his armies. v9b-10
 3. Joshua and the Israelites took vengeance upon the Amorites while the sun stood still v11
- f. God is characterized by startling...shocking...ruling the nations, the world v12

5. Saves v13a

- a. Why did He go forth in this way? Ultimately for the salvation of His people and His Anointed
- b. He went forth in order to save His people and ultimately to save His anointed: Jesus, the coming Messiah
- c. As sure as He preserved them for a Savior, He will preserve us because of the Savior.

6. Strikes v13b-15

At this point in the prayer song we have a grand crescendo that not only celebrates what He has done... but ultimately what He is going to do.

1. There is coming a day when He will publicly and powerfully be revealed.
2. He will stand so powerfully, survey his possession, and shock the nations so much so that earth and heaven itself will flee, and no place will be found for them.
3. He will save His own and will strike Babylon, this anti-Christ world system and its rulers once and for all
4. Revelation 19:11-21

III. He Responds v16-19

v16a—It is not clear whether he is literally hearing the sound of the approaching invaders or if he is anticipating their arrival at some point in the future because of what he heard from God. Either way, he responds in 3 ways.

1. He Waits v16b

- a. You aren't going to stop God's judgment and plan 2:3
- b. Rest in the sovereignty, wisdom, and goodness of God.
- c. Wait quietly, hush 2:20

2. He Worships v17-18

Psalms 46:1-5

1. He exults and rejoices
2. Romans 5:2-3 ...*we exult in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance*
3. Phil 4:4 *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!*

3. He Walks in God's Strength v19

Habakkuk begins his prophecy by questioning God: Where are You?

1. God responds that He is doing something Habakkuk could not comprehend.
2. And He was right.
 - a. What he revealed to him sent him into a tailspin.
 - b. This is not the God I thought He was...but by faith, he wrestles with God and waits on God.
3. God in His mercy reveals to Habakkuk the end of the story in chapter 2
 - a. Babylon will fall
 - b. But the righteous will live
4. Habakkuk responds by breaking out into prayer-song
 - a. He makes his request: revive your work, reveal your word, and remember your mercy
 - b. He reflects upon the power and faithfulness of His God
 - c. And waits in worship and faith...and God strengthens him.
 1. He steadies him.
 2. He upholds him.
 3. That is what he does for His children. Does He do this for you?

If not, come to Him today: THE GOSPEL

Discussion Questions:

1. What did you learn about God in this sermon and in the biblical texts used? About Christ? About the Holy Spirit?
2. What did you learn about yourself in this sermon and in the texts used?
3. Were there any clear promises or commands in the biblical texts used?
4. What is the hardest truth that stands out to you from this message or the verses referenced?
5. What is the most impactful point or statement from the sermon?
6. How can you respond to this message?