

Rocky 4 – Could not have ended better – **Adrian – Kid – Pauly – Flag** - That's not real life...is it?

- **Adrian filed | Kid wrong | Pauly arrested | Robot fire | Rocky = Blown hammy – DQ | Deported Powerful message...book – Real life & Real faith | Like isn't always good...God is always good**
Come to an end of this profound book – Complaint – Petition – Praise – Contentment | READ
Most beautiful & profound words = **He Embraces Faith while Enduring Catastrophe (Explain)**

1. **We Embrace Faith While Enduring Catastrophe - When All Around Confidence Fails**

I hear, and my body trembles; my lips quiver at the sound; rottenness enters into my bones; my legs tremble beneath me. | What if he could actually 'hear' it?

Everything he knew...lost...no matter how strong your faith...world is collapsing...confidence rocked

- *Body trembles...lips quiver* - The involuntary human reaction to overwhelming fear
- *Rottenness enters my bones* – Hebrew Idiom...as though my bones are decaying under my skin
- *Legs tremble beneath me* – **Jelly leg | Habakkuk just heard how the Lord will win...circumstances**
Have you ever had your confidence fail...it's unpleasant...doubt yourself...question everything
Terrible feeling to know catastrophe is coming & you can't do anything to prevent it – Life of prophet

2. **We Embrace Faith While Enduring Catastrophe – When All Around Circumstances Threaten**

Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble to come upon people who invade us.

Habakkuk now teaches a profound lesson – Quietly wait – I'm bad at both of those

- Habakkuk knows, beyond any doubt, that Israel is about to have its day of trouble
- *"People are going to invade"* – Not some abstract, possible future issue – Real & Imminent = Bad
- All Habakkuk can do is wait – It takes incredible strength to wait...wait quietly on the Lord
You've been there - Test results | Boss & laid offs | Disaster & Phone | Loved one in the ER
What created the change from Habakkuk's violent fear to calm waiting? Vertical Engagement
The prophet's weakened physical state contrasted with his incredibly strong spiritual state
When he looked up by faith, remembered the promises of God, and all his fear turned into tranquility

He knew God was at work | **Stand Firm – Ex 14:13 & Be Still – Ps 46:10**

This stillness comes into greater focus when you realize the totality of the destruction...befall

3. **We Embrace Faith While Enduring Catastrophe – When All Around Calamity is Near**

¹⁷ *Though the fig tree should not blossom nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls,*

Habakkuk is saying, what if...everything that can go wrong...does? **The terms are literal and symbolic**

- *Fig tree*: Most luxurious / sugar | Symbol of peace and stability
- *Fruit on Vines*: Wine - Symbol of Happiness
- *Olive*: Cooking and Lanterns | Symbol of light
- *Fields*: Wheat and Barley | Symbol of Sustenance
- *Flocks and Herds*: Meat / Wool / Milk / Plowing | Symbol of wealth
- **What if all this goes wrong? What if everything that makes me happy is taken?**
- **What if there's no light, if I can't see my way forward (metaphorically or literally)?**
- **What if there's not enough food, not enough resources to sustain me and my family?**
- **What if my wealth is taken or becomes worthless (had it all in crypto)? Seriously...What then?**
Corrie Ten Boom, who spent months in a German concentration camp in 1944, said it this way:
You can never learn that Christ is all you need, until Christ is all you have.

Our world is on the precipice of disaster: God ordered creation to work...humanity is gumming it up

Nations – Turning away | Churches – Falling away | People telling God to, 'Stay Away'

Confidence is failing – Circumstances Threaten - Calamity is Near – Christ is King

Habakkuk knew he could endure...omnipotent God of Israel had promised to not forget His People
I'm going to turn these last verses into declarations...I hope you can say with confidence of Habakkuk

1. **I Embrace Faith While Enduring Catastrophe – Because God is my Satisfaction**

¹⁸ *yet I will rejoice in the Lord; - What could possibly make someone rejoice when all is taken?*

Look at the list from the previous verse: Food – Drink – Luxury – Light – Stability – Order = Gone

Can we be honest? Most times...satisfaction & joy rest at least in part on how much we have

- In fact, a lot of times, our relationship with God himself rises and falls based on our prosperity
Habakkuk doesn't say, 'I'll rejoice...things better' | YET (insert catastrophe) I will rejoice in the Lord
- We like to worship when we feel good OR feel bad, we worship to make ourselves feel better
Pump ourselves up - right song, - right setting - right vibe "alright, now I can take on anything comes!"
This view of worship is self-centered | Don't worship to feel awesome - Worship to express awe
Don't worship in hopes that things will get better - Worship to proclaim that God is better

Satisfaction available everyone – Not found circumstances / prosperity – Satisfaction found Person

Intimate & personal relationship with Jesus, so close...even in the worst circumstances we can smile
Habakkuk outlined worst possible consequences: Inner peace did not depend on outward prosperity

Jesus is the inexhaustible source of an infinite supply of joy | 2nd Declaration

2. **I Embrace Faith While Enduring Catastrophe – Because God is my Salvation**

I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

Strong Declaration - We can't truly rejoice & take joy until we realize that God is our only salvation

Apart from Christ – World as good as it gets | In Christ – World as bad as it gets

God may not save us from this world – But He has saved us for another world

Habakkuk's stopped dwelling calamities day – Instead...focused character God = Our God Saves | **3rd**

3. **I Embrace Faith While Enduring Catastrophe – Because God is my Strength**

¹⁹ *God, the Lord, is my strength; | This is the outcome = Satisfaction & Salvation*

The Hebrew addresses both, YHWH, personal name for God, and the title Adonai (Lord) | **Endearing**
• *'Is my strength'* = Source of strength – Causes me to be strong – **God, the Lord, IS my strength**
Babylonians – like us – considered their power their strength - Whatever boast in...is your strength
With that in mind, what is our strength today? This week? Motivates to get up & keep going

- Is it your own power and capability - Because that's going to diminish
- Is it your intellect -That has limits | Is it your resources - They'll run out
- Is it the affirmation of others - That will come and go like the wind
- Is it the circumstances of the world around you? You'll be riding a rollercoaster of instability
Life is going to happen! Isn't a kid's book! Russian Go Down | Bounce from one catastrophe to next!

Declare – I Embrace Faith While Enduring Catastrophe – God is my Satisfaction – Salvation – Strength

Big Idea - When Everything Fails...God is Faithful | Metanarrative of Habakkuk

19 he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places.

Deer that can move swiftly – Climb steep and rocky places to safety | Speed and Sure-footedness

God gives us sure footing | Keeps us safe on the mountains

Habakkuk = Wherever he's to face – Trek – Climb - Difficulty...he won't be alone...You won't either!
Picture Habakkuk, standing on a mountain trail... Babylonians are coming over the hilltops

- **Trembling & overcome - Eyes catch a glimpse...deer...moving up, stable...away from danger**
Habakkuk realizes the nature of faith's calling – He too will walk on the heights...away from danger
Habakkuk has reached the pinnacle of faith – When everything fails...God doesn't
God is still God no matter what He allows or ordains in world – Purpose – Saves for the next
- Same God who protected and preserved the nation of Israel through their **slavery in Egypt**
- Same God who protected and preserved His people through the horrible **Babylonian captivity**
- Same God who protected and preserved His people through the **Gospel of Jesus Christ**
- Same God who protects and preserves us for now and through all of time through the **Holy Spirit**

To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments.

Seems like a footnote - stage direction, but it too is inspired, and it too has purpose.

It tells us Habakkuk's psalm was not just written as a personal reflection in his diary

It's a song...meant to be sung out loud among people...passed around & down through generations

We get to be part of the receiving and passing of this amazing message

When Everything Fails...He. Is. Faithful.