

Habakkuk 3

Jesus

Overview Chapters 1-2

▪ Chapter 1 Questions

- **Habakkuk's First Complaint** When will You judge the wickedness of my nation?

When will God finally judge the evil in our country?
Murder of Innocent, Perversity, Apostacy, Injustice?

Isaiah 59:15 So truth fails, And he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. Then the Lord saw it, and it displeased Him That there was no justice.

- **God's First Response** Judgment is coming. I will use your enemy to do it

God sometimes answers prayer
In ways we would never believe/think/or even want

- **Habakkuk's Second Complaint** Why judge like that? Are You going to let them get away w/it?

Sometimes we need a Holy Attitude Adjustment

▪ Chapter 2: Embracing God's Timing/Ways and Heart

Habakkuk 2:1 I will stand my watch And set myself on the rampart, And watch to see what He will say to me, And what I will answer **when I am corrected.**

Embrace ... Habakkuk is slowly but surely *embracing* the reality that God is God... and he is not, and that God does things perfectly in His own time/in His own way. [NJC]

- **Stands ready to be corrected for wrong thinking**

1. Accused God of the **wrong timing**
2. Accused God of the **wrong method**

Habakkuk humbles himself/Waits for God's response/Correction
Question lingers: Are they going to get away with it?

- **Gods Second Response** No. After I use wicked, they too will be judged

Psalms 31:23 Oh, love the Lord, all you His saints! For the Lord preserves the faithful, And **fully repays the proud person.**

Habakkuk 2:4 Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But **the just shall live by his faith.**

- The just shall live by their faith/The proud will die in their pride...
- Woe to the **Greedy/Violent/Drunkards/Idolaters**...wait, that's us too

James 2:13 ... judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. **Mercy triumphs over judgment.**

Habakkuk realizes Judah was no better than Babylon
Judah deserves what's coming. What will Habakkuk do now?

I. Prayer of Submission

1 A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, on **Shigionoth.**

- **Shigionoth**

1. Prayerful Song
2. Same word as "meditation" in title of **Psalm 7**

Psalm 7 [A Meditation [*Shigionoth*] of David, which he sang to the Lord **concerning the words of Cush**, a Benjamite]

- **Q. Who is Cush the Benjamite w/big mouth?**
- **A.** Probably Shimei
 1. David flees Jerusalem from son Absalom
 2. Shimei curses/throws stones at King David
 3. Accuses him of being a man of blood...
 4. Abishai, David's guy **has a plan...**

2 Samuel 16:9 [Abishai to David] "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Please, let me go over and take off his head!" ... **11** Let him alone, and let him curse; for **so the Lord has ordered him.** **12** It may be that the Lord will look on my affliction, and that the Lord will repay me with good **for his cursing this day.**" **13** And as David and his men went along the road, Shimei went along the hillside opposite him and cursed as he went, threw stones at him and kicked up dust.

- **David:** Neglectful Father
 1. No discipline after son **Amnon** raped David's daughter **Tamar**
 2. David's other son Absalom kills Amnon/flees Jerusalem
 3. Absalom begs David to accept him back/David ignores his pleas
 4. Joab gets involved/Finally King David agrees to see son Absalom *but it was bad*

2 Samuel 14:33b... when [David] had called for Absalom, he came to the king and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king. **Then the king kissed Absalom.**

- **Too little too late...**peck on the head was the last straw

2 Samuel 15:1 [Next verse] After this it happened that Absalom provided himself with chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him.

David now resolved to accept God's judgment for sin
Sings/prays this Shigionoth in Psalm 7

Psalm 7:1 [A Meditation [*Shigionoth*] of David, which he sang to the Lord concerning the **words of Cush**, a Benjamite] O Lord my God, in You I put my trust; Save me from all those who persecute me; And deliver me, **2** Lest they tear me like a lion, Rending me in pieces, while there is none to deliver. **3** O Lord my God, **if I have done this: If there is iniquity in my hands,** **4** If I have repaid evil to him who was at peace with me, Or have plundered my enemy without cause, **5** **Let the enemy pursue me and overtake me;** Yes, let him trample my life to the earth, And lay my honor in the dust. ... **17** I will praise the Lord according to His righteousness, And will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High.

Can we submit to God completely?

- Easy to say yes when things going well. What about when rocks/cursing start?
- **Can we submit completely to God?**

1. Things He does/Things He allows
2. The way He steps in/Way He waits to step in
3. The People/Circumstances/Situations He uses to draw us/**discipline us...**

Hebrews 12:5b... My son, do not despise the chastening [discipline] of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; 6 For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." 7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

Habakkuk now submits completely to God. Resolved/at Peace with...
God's Timing, God's Ways and seeks God's Heart

Habakkuk 2:20 [Last verse] But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him.

2 O Lord, I have heard Your speech and was **afraid**

- **God's voice made him afraid**

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the Lord is the **beginning of knowledge**, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the Lord is the **beginning of wisdom**, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

- Habakkuk desired to be corrected by God...**and was**
- **A.** Habakkuk...You are no less deserving of My judgment than Babylon

2b... O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make it known; **In wrath remember mercy.**

- **Bring Revival/Remember Mercy**

God's mercy was shown by sending the Prophet Jeremiah to give the people a way of escape; i.e., surrender to Babylon and live there. Yet the people in unbelief disobeyed God's Word and thus there was be no revival and no mercy. **Why?** Because of disobedience to God's clear instruction. Judah would be laid siege and Nebuchadnezzar would show no mercy. [Though Daniel and a select few would enjoy God's blessing even in Babylon] [NJC]

- **So what?** Listen and do
- **You want Revival/Mercy in your life?** Obey God's **clear instruction**

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the **way of escape**, that you may be able to bear it.

- God told you the way out. Flee from sin

3 God came from Teman, The Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah.

- **Teman:** Southern Territory
- **Paran:** Place of Caverns

Deuteronomy 33:2 [Moses blesses before his death] The Lord came from Sinai, And

dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from **Mount Paran**, And He came with ten thousands of saints; From His right hand Came a fiery law for them.

- Habakkuk sees God for who He is... the God of the whole earth not just Judah

2 Chronicles 16:9 For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the **whole earth**, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.

Psalms 97:5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, At the presence of the Lord of the **whole earth**.

Isaiah 54:5b ... your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the **whole earth**.

- **Southern Territory/Place of Caverns:** God is omnipresent/Everywhere all the time

Psalms 139:7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.

3b... His glory covered the heavens, And the earth was full of His praise. 4 His brightness was like the light; He had rays flashing from His hand, And there **His power was hidden**.

- **Habakkuk decides to praise rather than complain**
 1. God's glory covers the Heavens
 2. God's praise covers the earth
 3. God's splendor is like the sun w/ lightning from His hands

And that is with His power hidden!

1 Corinthians 1:25 ... the foolishness of God is **wiser than** [the wisest of] **men**, and the weakness of God is **stronger than men**.

5 Before Him went pestilence, And fever followed at His feet. 6 He stood and measured the earth; He looked and startled the nations. And the everlasting mountains were scattered, The perpetual hills bowed. **His ways are everlasting**.

Nahum 1:5 The mountains quake before Him, The **hills melt**, **And the earth heaves** at His **presence**, Yes, the world and all who dwell in it.

- Even after God judges Judah, Babylon, America He will continue as always
- God is Everlasting/Unmoved through Blessing or Judgment

Psalms 29:10 The Lord sat enthroned at the Flood, And the Lord **sits as King forever**.

7 I saw the tents of **Cushan** in affliction; The curtains of the land of Midian trembled. 8 O Lord, were You displeased with the rivers, Was Your anger against the rivers, Was Your wrath against the sea, That You rode on Your horses, **Your chariots of salvation**? 9 Your bow was made quite ready;

Oaths were sworn over Your arrows. Selah You divided the earth with rivers. 10 The mountains saw You and trembled; The overflowing of the water passed by. The deep uttered its voice, And lifted its hands on high.

- **Reference to what Israel always looked back upon; i.e.** Exodus from Egypt

Exodus 14:22 ... the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

11 The **sun and moon stood** still in their habitation; At the light of Your arrows they went, At the shining of Your glittering spear. 12 You marched through the land in indignation; You trampled the nations in anger. 13 You went forth for the salvation of Your people, For salvation with **Your Anointed**. You struck the head from the **house of the wicked**, By laying bare from foundation to neck. Selah

- **Habakkuk continues to remember** God's past strength/faithfulness to His people
 1. The day Pharaoh was defeated
 2. **The day the sun stood still...**

Joshua 10:12 Then Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon; And Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon." 13 So the sun stood still, And the moon stopped, Till the people had revenge Upon their enemies...So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day. 14 And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the Lord heeded the voice of a man; for the Lord fought for Israel.

Habakkuk dwells on God's Miraculous Intervention into the affairs of men

- **Sun stands still:** How did that happen?
 1. How did Creation happen in six days?
 2. Similar Q. How did water immediately turn wine? Fermenting takes time?
 3. How did light from the stars reach earth so fast?

Einstein's Theory of Relativity: Time is relative
God holds time in His hands. Stretches it/Shrinks it/Twists it

4. How did the Noah's Ark happen?
5. How was the fish "prepared" by God to swallow a man?
6. How did a man rise from the dead?

Real Question is...How Big is you God?
Are you not a living being with no apparent power source?

- Jesus is what keeps like-charges from repelling w/in an atom

Colossians 1:15 [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and **in Him all things consist.**

- **Salvation with/by your Anointed:** Jesus Christ the Messiah

14 You thrust through with his own arrows The head of his villages. They came out like a whirlwind to scatter me; Their rejoicing was like feasting on the poor in secret. 15 You walked through the sea with Your horses, Through the heap of great waters.

Psalm 77:19 Your way was in the sea, Your path in the great waters, And Your footsteps were not known.

16 When I heard, my body trembled; My lips quivered at the voice; Rottenness entered my bones; And I trembled in myself, **That I might rest** in the day of trouble. When he comes up to the people, He will invade them with his troops.

- **When I heard:** When I heard judgment was coming...**I sobered up/Fell apart**

1. My lips quivered/My body trembled
2. Rottenness in bones instead of wholeness

- **Habakkuk trembled that he might rest?**

1. **He Assessed:** This was going to be really hard.
2. **He Trembled** at his own weakness.
3. **He Rested** in God's Strength/Faithfulness

- **Whatever God is doing/allowing**

1. Medical
2. Kids
3. Job
4. Finances
5. Loss

I resolved that this is going to be really, really hard.... Honest assessment
I rested in You: You are Big. You are Good. Therefore, I trust there is **Purpose in the Pain**

- **Prayers of Submission naturally lead to Hymns of Faith...**

II. Hymn of Faith It is well with my soul

17 Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls— 18 Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

- Though nothing outwardly is looking up/hopeful

Yet...I will rejoice in the Lord...I will Joy in the God of my Eternal Salvation

When peace like a river attends my way When sorrows like sea billows roll... Whatever my lot, You have **taught me to say** It is well, it is well with my soul. [Written by Horatio

Spafford 1873 after losing four children]

**Greatest Attitude Adjustment we can have in really hard times?
Eternal Perspective regarding God's past/present and future Faithfulness**

Psalm 30:5 For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, **But joy comes in the morning.**

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

- No blossoms on Fig Tree/No fruit on Vine/No flock/No herd

Even while everything else seems to change...God remains the same

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the **same yesterday, today, and forever.**

19 The Lord God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, And He will make me walk on my high hills.

Even while the earth moves beneath my feet
God will give me the confidence of a sure-footed deer

God will set my steps that firmly and lively also. As I trust in Him, He will not allow me to slip or fall, and I will do more than merely plod along - I will skip about with life and joy [Guzik]

- **God alone is my strength**
 1. He will make me **walk without stumbling**
 2. He will make me **able to climb the heights**

To the Chief Musician. With my stringed instruments

- **Prayers of Submission naturally lead to Hymns of Faith...**

Everything changed when Habakkuk stopped asking **why**
Submission to God's will leads to Praise of God's Faithfulness

- **He Assessed:** This is going to be really, really hard.
- **He Trembled** at his own weakness.
- **He Rested** in God's Strength/God's Faithfulness

Yet I will rejoice in the Lord... I will joy in the God of my Salvation