



GOD'S ABSENCE AND PAIN'S PRESENCE

Habakkuk 3:17-19



**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, yet I will rejoice in
the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.
GOD, the Lord, is my strength; He makes my feet like
the deer's; He makes me tread on my high places.
To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments.**

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Habakkuk 3:17-19 (ESV)

Outline

A. Context

B. 3:17-19, “A Song for Times of Loss”

C. Habakkuk and the Great Problem

D. Job and the Great Problem

E. Narnia and the Great Problem

F. Song of Reflection

G. Jesus and the Great Solution

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Context

Habakkuk's Dialogue With God

- First Complaint (1:2) *“When will you sort out this trouble I’m in?”*
- First Answer (1:5) *“I’m dealing with it, but not in the way you want or understand.”*
- Second Complaint (1:13) *“Why aren’t you doing anything?”*
- Second Answer: (2:4) *“The righteous will live by their faith.”*
- Habakkuk's Prayer: (3:4) *“God is terrible in power and awesome in justice.”*

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Habakkuk And the Great Problem

Habakkuk 3:17

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,

Despite Habakkuk's faithfulness, worship, and service to the Lord, he still suffers.

Why is there pain in Habakkuk's life?

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Habakkuk And the Great Problem

Habakkuk 3:18

yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

For the Israelites, salvation meant complete deliverance from physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional oppression.

Why does Habakkuk rejoice in the Lord even though God hasn't been his "salvation"?

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Habakkuk And the Great Problem

Habakkuk 3:19

GOD, the Lord, is my strength; He makes my feet like the deer's; He makes me tread on my high places. To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments.

Though he is clearly in much distress (3:16), Habakkuk nevertheless composes a song showcasing God's peace and goodness.

Why does Habakkuk, in this time of great calamity, write a song like this?

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Job and the Great Problem

Job's Story

- Job was a perfect man. (1:1)
- God allows Satan to take all from Job. (2:5)
- Job's three friends arrive and accuse Job of sin, which Job rejects. (5:17)
- Job accuses God of carelessness and mismanagement. (31:35-37)
- Elihu, a young man, rebukes and answers Job. (34:13-15)
- God appears and answers Job. (38:4)

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**WHAT WE THINK THE GREAT PROBLEM IS:
PAIN**

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WHAT THE GREAT PROBLEM ACTUALLY IS: GOD'S ABSENCE AND SILENCE

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**I had heard of you by the hearing of
the ear, but now my eye sees you;**

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Job 42:5 (ESV)



**God's true response to pain
is His presence.**

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Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus wept.

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John 11:32-35 (ESV)

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!”

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Matthew 27:46, 50-54 (ESV)



**Jesus was abandoned on the cross so
that you would never be alone again.**

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