

- When we wrestle with God over a matter, and God gives us every reason to give up and walk away, do we cling to him?
- Many of us were told God would make it all better, what happens when he doesn't?

Hab 3:1 A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet upon Shigionoth.

- Shigionoth, Hebrew, rambling poem possibly sung
- This book began with Habakkuk's burden, but ends with his prayer

Hab 3:2 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.

- The prophet acknowledges God's word, even though he did not like what he heard and was afraid, he realizes God works in His own time and by His own methods, and he only appeals to God to remember mercy in the midst of judging his nation
- God's word troubled Habakkuk, he believed God's word regarding the coming judgment on the nation and the methods He would use
- Habakkuk understood the commandments of God and how they would come to pass, he did not argue against that, but asked God to be merciful

Hab 3:3 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.

- When God met Moses on Mount Sinai, also known as Mount Paran, the people saw God approaching from the north, out of Teman
- Quite often in scripture, God's divine judgment came from the north

Hab 3:4 And *his* brightness was as the light; he had horns *coming* out of his hand: and there *was* the hiding of his power.

Hab 3:5 Before him went the pestilence, and burning coals went forth at his feet.

- Horns, symbolic of power and strength
- The Bible tells us our God is a consuming fire, just as the mountain burned when His presence came upon it
- Habakkuk recalls the history of his nation's interaction with God, the pestilence was obedient to God's command, he used it multiple times in Egypt and the conquest of the promised land

Hab 3:6 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.

- We view the mountains as immovable and ancient, God does not. God moves the mountains as He wills, if you want steadfast and immovable, God's ways are everlasting

Hab 3:7 I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction: *and* the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble.

- Midian and Cush were inhabitants on either side of the Red Sea
- The prophet sees God sparing nothing to deliver His people from the bondage of Egypt and bring them into their inheritance
- Habakkuk realized God's same might would be used in judging His wayward people

Hab 3:8 Was the LORD displeased against the rivers? *was* thine anger against the rivers? *was* thy wrath against the sea, that thou didst ride upon thine horses *and* thy chariots of salvation?

- God was not angry with the Sea, but split it to liberate His people

- God was not angry with his creation, but it is completely subject to His divine will and purpose

Hab 3:9 Thy bow was made quite naked, *according* to the oaths of the tribes, *even thy* word. Selah. Thou didst cleave the earth with rivers.

Hab 3:10 The mountains saw thee, *and* they trembled: the overflowing of the water passed by: the deep uttered his voice, *and* lifted up his hands on high.

Hab 3:11 The sun *and* moon stood still in their habitation: at the light of thine arrows they went, *and* at the shining of thy glittering spear.

Hab 3:12 Thou didst march through the land in indignation, thou didst thresh the heathen in anger.

Hab 3:13 Thou wentest forth for the salvation of thy people, *even* for salvation with thine anointed; thou woundedst the head out of the house of the wicked, by discovering the foundation unto the neck. Selah.

- Thy bow is naked, or uncovered, God has drawn his bow against the nation
- The creation trembles awaiting God's wrath, while those who disobey continue to do so, hardened and callous to the Father's beckoning
- The prophet sees the great power by which God has always protected and governed His people and Habakkuk will depend on this same power even though God's sovereignty now brings another nation against them
- Habakkuk realizes God's power is everlasting, his faith grows as he begins to depend more on his God and less on his circumstances
- The nation has placed itself in the position of an enemy against God, the same place occupied by many nations whom God destroyed in bringing them this far
- At the beginning, Habakkuk's faith wavered because of the wickedness around him, *Where are you, God?* has become *I will wait on you, God.*

Hab 3:14 Thou didst strike through with his staves the head of his villages: they came out as a whirlwind to scatter me: their rejoicing *was* as to devour the poor secretly.

Hab 3:15 Thou didst walk through the sea with thine horses, *through* the heap of great waters.

- How great must be God's army, that He rides horses through the sea, and this great power defends God's people
- When we fall into judgment, it is governed by the hands of a loving father, who may have allowed things to come against us, but remains with us

Hab 3:16 When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble: when he cometh up unto the people, he will invade them with his troops.

- The prophet is still realistic, judgment is still coming, there is a battle in the future, hard times are coming, but he will rest in the day of trouble, because his faith is in the Sovereign One

Hab 3:17 Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither *shall* fruit *be* in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and *there shall be* no herd in the stalls:

Hab 3:18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

- The prophet resolves that, come what may, he will follow God
- The scriptures teach us, that bad times do come, there are no promises that God's people escape hard times, most of the time, the Word teaches us otherwise
- Habakkuk has gone from basing his faith on the weather, to basing his faith in a unchanging, immovable God, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever more

Hab 3:19 The LORD God *is* my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' *feet*, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.

- My strength is not based on my 401k, health, family, or home – it is based on the Lord
- It may not be in high cotton, but it will be in high places