

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

APRIL 13TH-14TH, 2019 // BOOK OF HABAKKUK

## WORSHIP (3:1-2)

### A PRAYER IN THE FORM OF A SONG

The third prayer of this book was intended to be prayer that was sung like a worship song. *Shigionoth* has not been translated, but is a type of Jewish song.

- More than likely the song of Habakkuk 3 was a common prayer hymn sung by the Jews during worship.

### MUSIC AND WORSHIP ARE IMPORTANT PIECES

All throughout the Bible music plays a huge role in the lives of Believers.

- Today, **we must be cautious about the theology of the music we worship to and be sure that the point of worship music is the elevation of God and the edification of the church body.**

### MUSIC IS AN INCLUSIVE PART OF THE CHURCH

Though not everyone can teach or play an instrument, we can all join together in worship through singing songs of praise. **Corporate worship unites the body and makes us stronger.**

- **One day we will all be worshipping together in perfect unity and fellowship with God in heaven (Rev. 19)!**

### OUR HEART SHOULD BE IN ALIGNMENT

There's a proper way to praise God. We must **approach God with awe, remember and celebrate what He has done, worship in Spirit and Truth (Jn 4:23-24), anticipate God's presence, and center all worship on Him.**

- Worship is our time to make it all about Him. **Oddly enough, when it's all about Him, we get blessed.**

## FOR PAST WORKS (3:3-7)

### A TRACK RECORD OF FAITHFULNESS

V3-7 is a brief list of some of the events that show God's nature as He came to the aid of His people. You can almost feel Habakkuk pumping himself up as he remembers the power of God through the events of the past.

- **We need to learn to encourage ourselves in the Lord. Pray, read, record, and remember.**

### CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD GOD

Habby mentions Teman because it was an Oasis city. **God is our place of refuge and refreshment.** He also mentions Mt. Paran (Sinai) where God delivered the 10 C's. God gives clarity, direction, and justice.

- *Selah* is a musical break, but it also indicates a pause to reflect on the magnitude of what the song is about.

### "HIS BRILLIANCE IS LIKE LIGHT..."

Habakkuk compares God's splendor to a sunrise with "rays flashing from His hand." This is yet another reminder (Revelation) that God is beyond our imagination.

- Paul said that God lives in "unapproachable light" (1Tim. 6:16), but we get a glimpse of that light when we have a relationship with Him.

### FROM LIGHT TO POWER (V5-6)

Not only is God light and goodness, but He is powerful and sovereign. God isn't powerful because of armies, but because He controls the elements (plagues and pestilence) and "stands and shakes the earth."

- **God is good and He is powerful. That means He is willing and able to help us when we need Him.**

### ABLE TO BRING US THROUGH THE WILDERNESS

All 4 places mentioned in this chapter are wilderness towns that the Jews passed through on their way to the Promised Land (Teman, Paran, Cushan, and Midian).

- This was a reminder to Habakkuk **that though there are times of drought and hardships, God is taking His people to a good place!**

### PRACTICALLY SPEAKING

- Do we look back at where we have come from and remember that in the middle of the wilderness hope seems dim?
- Isn't it fascinating that God not only delivers us but makes us better people through the hard times?

## FOR THE FUTURE (3:8-15)

### TAKING CARE OF THE FUTURE

Habakkuk asks a series of rhetorical questions as he encourages himself more by thinking about what God is going to do in the future.

- V8 is basically asking if God is angry with the earth, but Habby knows it isn't the earth, but rebellious people that make God angry.

### MORE REFERENCES ABOUT GOD'S POWER

In Habakkuk's time, there were hundreds of manufactured ideas of gods that controlled different elements of nature. Habby reminds us that only One God controls the rivers, mountains, sun, and moon.

- The mention of "sun and moon stand still" could be a reference to Joshua 10.

### GOD'S WRATH SERVES A PURPOSE

God doesn't get angry for no reason. God inflicts wrath on evil in order to save and protect His people.

This will happen to the Babylonians in Dan. 5. It will happen to the final evil civilization in Rev. 18.

- The 2nd *Selah* indicates **that we should pause and remember that God will deal with evil!**

### GOD WILL ALSO HUMBLE THE PROUD

At the end of this section we see that people will rise up "gloating as if ready to secretly devour the weak," but God will "strip [them] from foot to neck" and "pierce [their] head with [their] own spear."

- **Everyone should remember Pr. 16:18. God resists the proud and draws near to the humble (Js. 4:6).**

### PRACTICALLY SPEAKING

- Do we trust God enough to know that He has a plan and future for us (Jer. 29:11)?
- Do we understand that rebellion, pride, and arrogance will separate us from God?

## EVEN IF... (3:16-19)

### REMEMBER THIS BOOK IS A VISION

The Book of Habakkuk is a "pronouncement" or vision given to Habakkuk about how God was going to deal with injustice and take care of His people. After seeing the vision, Habby is terrified by seeing just a glimpse of God's power and majesty.

- **"Fear of the Lord is the beginning of all wisdom"** (Proverbs 9:10).

### A RELATIONSHIP DEEPENS FAITH

Though Habakkuk was uneasy about how God was going to deal with His people, Habakkuk trusted and had faith God was going to do what was best.

- **Time with God builds confidence. We must build a relationship by praying, reading, asking questions, and waiting for answers.**

### WORSHIP BRINGS US JOY IN HARD TIMES

V17-18 are some of the most impactful verses in the Bible and they beg the question, "Where does our joy come from?"

- Though we may struggle, **when we are connected with God nothing can steal our contentment, peace, and sense of security that only comes from Him!**
- **Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)**

### RELATIONSHIP AND WORSHIP PROVIDE STRENGTH

Habakkuk compares his ability to carry on through hard times to a deer elegantly navigating through "mountain heights."

- We cannot do this alone! **It is by God's provision that we are able to navigate this life! If we will trust Him and praise Him in tough times, we will be shocked at the outcome.**
- **Psalms 73:25-26 (CSB)**

## RELATIONSHIP ON PURPOSE

- Every single person in this room has been shown provisions of God, but **we must want to open our eyes** and see them.
- **A relationship with God only happens intentionally!** This means we must make time with God a priority.
- As Christians, we have to worship with the intent of making Him the focus. It is only when we put our eyes on Him that we begin to be better people!
- Do we truly love God? What if He never did another thing for us? Would we still follow and trust in Him?
- Are we persuaded that He is the only way to navigate this confusing and difficult life? How are our ways working?