



# Habakkuk's Prayer

Habakkuk 3:1-19

# Habakkuk's Prayer

- It is a public prayer written by an inspired prophet of God.
- It was to be used in worship and intended to be repeated.
- It is a prayer psalm (vs. 1) intended to be accompanied with an instrument (vs. 19) and calls for responses from the congregation (Selah)
- It is in the style of Shigionoth - “a lyrical poem composed under strong mental emotion; a song of impassioned imagination accompanied with suitable music; a dithyrambic ode; an exciting song of victory; see also Psalm 7” (Bible Study Tools)

# Habakkuk Approached God In Reliance

- The prophet knew God's judgment was just, but pleaded for His mercy.
  - Hab. 3:2, 5 - "O LORD, I have heard your speech and was afraid; O LORD, revive Your work in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make it known; In wrath remember mercy... 5 Before Him went pestilence, And fever followed at His feet."

# Habakkuk Approached God In Reliance

- God wanted His people's hearts, not just their external compliance.
  - Matt. 15:8 - “These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.”
  - Isa. 29:13 - “Therefore the Lord said: Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men”

# Habakkuk Approached God In Reliance

- Nothing says more of one's faith than how much and how fervently he prays
- Habakkuk prayed that their faith will remain strong enough to for them to survive
  - Hab. 2:4 - “Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith.”
- Their deliverance depended on their having faith in God and calling on Him in prayer.

## Habakkuk Approached God In Remembrance

- The scriptures give us a record of God's dealings with humankind. He has always been completely consistent.
  - Hab. 3:2 - "O LORD, I have heard your speech and was afraid; O LORD, revive Your work in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make it known; In wrath remember mercy."

## Habakkuk Approached God In Remembrance

- God has always dealt with us on the basis of our response toward His word.
- God is the Sovereign Ruler of this universe
  - Dan. 2:21 - “And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding.”

## Habakkuk Approached God In Remembrance

- Dan. 3:17 - “If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.”
- Dan. 4:25 - “They shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen. They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.”



# Habakkuk Approached God In Remembrance

- We maintain our place in the world by humbling our hearts before God.
  - Psalm 51:16-17 - “For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart-These, O God, You will not despise.”

## Habakkuk Approached God In Remembrance

- We may not understand the power and providence of God, but it will always work
  - Hab. 1:5 - “Look among the nations and watch-Be utterly astounded! For I will work a work in your days Which you would not believe, though it were told you.”
- Cooperate with the will of God and rest assured He will consistently save

# Habakkuk Approached God In Reverence

- Free and constant access to the Father does not mean a casual approach to Him
  - Hab. 3:2 - “O LORD, I have heard your speech and was afraid; O LORD...”
  - Ex. 20:18-20 - “Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. 19 Then they said to Moses, You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die. 20 And Moses said to the people, Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin.”

# Habakkuk Approached God In Reverence

- “Afraid” is yaw-ray’ - “to fear; morally to revere; cause to frighten, affright, be made afraid, in dread, put in fear of terribleness” (Strong’s)
- A fear that produces obedience
  - Joshua 24:14 - “Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD!”

# Habakkuk Approached God In Reverence

- We must acknowledge that our destiny is entirely in the hands of God.
  - We labor, but God gives the increase - 1Cor. 3:6
  - God can remove a congregation's lampstand - Rev. 2:5
  - God prunes or cuts off branches - John 15:1-8

# Habakkuk Approached God In Reverence

- The Lord will judge His people
  - Heb. 10:30 - “For we know Him who said, Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord. And again, The LORD will judge His people.”
- The basis of wisdom is to fear God
  - Prov. 1:7 - “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

# Habakkuk Approached God For Restoration

- The prophet accepted that the judgment was coming and that it was just.
- He prays for mercy in the coming judgment - Hab. 3:2
- His prayer is like that of the psalmist, Asaph
  - Psalm 80:19 - “Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; Cause Your face to shine, And we shall be saved!”

# Habakkuk Approached God For Restoration

- Habakkuk calls for revival, not for salvation while still in their sins
  - Ezra 9:8-9 - “And now for a little while grace has been shown from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a peg in His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and give us a measure of revival in our bondage. 9 For we were slaves. Yet our God did not forsake us in our bondage; but He extended mercy to us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to revive us, to repair the house of our God, to rebuild its ruins, and to give us a wall in Judah and Jerusalem.”



# Habakkuk Approached God For Restoration

- He prayed that their faith would be rekindled, even if it took captivity to bring it about.
- Hardship is designed to refine us, to sort out the remnant from chaff
- Our prayers should be for revival
  - Psalm 85:5-6 - “Will You be angry with us forever?  
Will You prolong Your anger to all generations? 6  
Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You?”

# Habakkuk's Prayer

- Regardless of what God had planned, Habakkuk believed God was doing what was right and best
- Regardless of how shocking and devastating the future of Israel would be, Habakkuk remembered that God is consistent in His word and actions
- Regardless of how sad or outraged Habakkuk was over the future, he did not treat God with disrespect.
- Regardless of his desire for all of Israel to be spared, he was content with God's plan to restore only a few.
- As Abraham asked in Gen. 18:25, "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"