

Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets

Habakkuk: Trusting God When Life is Hard

Review:

Habakkuk began with **the prophet asking God ...**

O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save? (1:2)

God answers, stating ...

"Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told. For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, who march through the breadth of the earth, to seize dwellings not their own." (1:5-6)

Habakkuk responds ...

"O LORD, you have ordained them as a judgment, and you, O Rock, have established them for reproof." (1:12b)

"... Is he then to keep on emptying his net and mercilessly killing nations forever?" 1:17)

God tells Habakkuk **this principle**:

And the LORD answered me: "Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it. For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay. (2:2-3)

But ...

"... the righteous shall live by his faith." (2:4)

Chapter 2 ends with: *"... the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him."*

Habakkuk 3:1-19 (ESV)

¹ A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, according to Shigionoth.

² O LORD, I have heard the report of you, and your work, O LORD, do I fear. In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy.

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

His splendor covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise. ⁴ His brightness was like the light; rays flashed from his hand; and there he veiled his power. ⁵ Before him went pestilence, and plague followed at his heels. ⁶ He stood and measured the earth; he looked and shook the nations; then the eternal mountains were scattered; the everlasting hills sank low. His were the everlasting ways. ⁷ I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction; the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble.

⁸ Was your wrath against the rivers, O LORD? Was your anger against the rivers, or your indignation against the sea, when you rode on your horses, on your chariot of salvation? ⁹ You stripped the sheath from your bow, calling for many arrows. Selah

You split the earth with rivers. ¹⁰ The mountains saw you and writhed; the raging waters swept on; the deep gave forth its voice; it lifted its hands on high. ¹¹ The sun and moon stood still in their place at the light of your arrows as they sped, at the flash of your glittering spear. ¹² You marched through the earth in fury; you threshed the nations in anger. ¹³ You went out for the salvation of your people, for the salvation of your anointed. You crushed the head of the house of the wicked, laying him bare from thigh to neck. Selah

¹⁴ You pierced with his own arrows the heads of his warriors, who came like a whirlwind to scatter me, rejoicing as if to devour the poor in secret. ¹⁵ You trampled the sea with your horses, the surging of mighty waters. ¹⁶ I hear, and my body trembles; my lips quiver at the sound; rottenness enters into my bones; my legs tremble beneath me. Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble to come upon people who invade us.

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,**
¹⁸ **yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.** 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.

Part 1: **A Simple Prayer** ... 3 components

Informed _____

Humble _____

Hopeful _____

Compare the content and tone of this prayer with Habakkuk's earlier prayers.

What happened?

Note: Good theology always ...

Good theology and prayer ...

Part 2: Some Serious Theology ...

_____ and _____ (v. 3-4)

_____ and _____ (v. 4-6)

_____ and _____ (v. 7-11, 14-15)

_____ and _____ (v. 12-13)

_____ (v. 16)

Part 3: A Sustaining Faith

Habakkuk 3:17-18 (ESV)

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,

¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. ¹⁹ GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places.

Conclusion: Where do I find my happiness?

Can I be happy under any circumstances; or is there some set of circumstances that is so important in my life that I cannot be happy without them?

Jonathan Edwards ...