

From Worrying to Worshipping

Habakkuk 3:1-19

Pastor Michael Lynn / West Hampden Baptist Church

August 21, 2022 p.m.

Introduction: Habakkuk began his prophetic book by “wrestling” with God. He voices his problems relating to the seeming indifference of God & then the inconsistency of God. But he humbly waits to hear from the Lord as he moves from worrying to watching & now in chapter 3 to worshipping. Wiersbe points out, “His circumstances hadn’t changed, but he had changed, & now he was walking by faith instead of sight. He was living by promises, not explanations.”

Are you willing to talk honestly with the Lord about your difficulties? Will you, like Habakkuk, pray & meditate upon God’s Word? Note with me tonight in this closing chapter 3 spiritual disciplines that we all need. We need to pray for the work of God (:1-2); ponder the greatness of God (:3-15); & proclaim the will (& Word) of God (:16-19).

I. Pray for the work of God (3:1-2)

A. Habakkuk's response to God's revelation (the *spirit* of revival).

Note 3:1, “*upon Shigionoth*”? – a deeply emotional tune or poem; a triumphal song]

1. “*I have heard thy speech*” > He **heard** God speak.

God's answers (He answers Habakkuk’s honest doubts).

2. “*And was afraid*” > He **heeded** God's speech.

Application: Do we hear God speaking & heed His speech, whether it be in our private reading of God's Word or in the public meeting with God's Word?

1. What is our attitude?

a. I Samuel 3:9, “*Speak, Lord; for Thy servant heareth.*”

b. Proverbs 28:9, “*He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.*”

Application: Do you desire for God to speak to you as you read & hear His Word?

2. What is our attendance?

a. Faithful to God's house? Hebrews 10:25.

b. Worshipful in God's house? Psalm 27:4.

3. What is our apprehension (fear)?

a. Judgment? fear lest we be judged - Psalm 119:120; Romans 3:18; Hebrews 10:31.

b. Jealousy? fear lest we offend God - James 4:5 (move the Spirit of God to envy?).

See Acts 10:33 > Application: What does it take for God to get our attention & for the pastor to hold our attention? Consider the competition for our attention.

B. Habakkuk's request for God's reviving (the *supplication* for revival).

1. “*Revive Thy work*” [Habakkuk wanted his people (the Jews) renewed, restored to the place of blessing]. Habakkuk’s & our prayer? “**Revive Your people!**”

2. “*Reveal Thy-self*” (“*make known*”). Habakkuk’s & our prayer? “**Reveal Your power!**”

3. “*Remember Thy mercy*” (“*in wrath remember mercy*”). Habakkuk’s & our prayer?

“**Remember Your provision!**”

II. Ponder the greatness of God (3:3-15)

A. God reveals His greatness in creation (3:3 & cf. Psalm 19:1-6).

B. God reveals His greatness in Scripture (cf. Psalm 19:7-11).

C. God reveals His greatness in history (3:8-15).

Summary: “There is no substitute for good theology whether in our sermons or in our songs. The shallowness of some contemporary sermons, books, & songs may be the major contributing factor to the weakness of the church & the increase in ‘religious entertainment’ in meetings where we ought to be praising God. The thing that lifted Habakkuk to the mountaintop was his understanding of the greatness of God. We need a return to the kind of worship that focuses on the glory of God & seeks to honor Him alone” (Wiersbe).

III. **Proclaim** the will (& Word) of God (:16-19)

[“This is one of the greatest confessions of faith found anywhere in Scripture. Habakkuk tells God that he will trust Him no matter what happens” (Wiersbe).]

A. He will rest upon the Lord – “...*rest in the day of trouble*” (:16).

1. Habakkuk is not depending upon his feelings.
2. “If Habakkuk looked ahead, he saw a nation heading for destruction, & that frightened him. When he looked within, he saw himself trembling with fear, & when he looked around, he saw everything in the economy about to fall apart. But when he looked up by faith, he saw God, & all his fears vanished” (Wiersbe).
3. Wiersbe testifies, “I’ve often leaned on 3 verses that have helped me wait patiently on the Lord. “*Stand still*” (Ex. 14:13), “*Sit still*” (Ruth 3:18), & “*Be still*” (Ps. 46:10).”

B. He will rejoice in the Lord (:17-18).

1. Though Habakkuk could not rejoice in his difficult circumstances, he could rejoice in His Lord.
Illustrate: Testimony of Ron Hamilton & compare Romans 8:28.
2. There are other similar admonitions to rest in the Lord:
 - a. Isaiah 12:1-2 (& cf. Ex. 15:2 & Ps. 118:14).
 - b. Philippians 4:4.
 - c. I Thessalonians 5:16-18.

C. He will rely on the Lord (:19).

1. Contrast verse 16 (“*trembled*”) with verse 19 (“*He will make my feet like hinds’ feet, & He will make me to walk upon mine high places*”).
2. “One reason why the Lord permits us to go through trials: they can draw us nearer to Him & lift us above the circumstances so that we walk on the heights with Him” (Wiersbe).
3. “Our joy is in proportion to our trust. Our trust is in proportion to our knowledge of God” (G. Campbell Morgan).

Conclusion: Though God doesn’t always change our circumstances, He can change us to meet those circumstances. Habakkuk has seen in a vision the destruction that would come upon Judah. His immediate response was to tremble (:16). But he prays for the ability to “*rest in the day of trouble*” (:16). He is therefore able to rejoice. “All his doubts had been removed. His problem had been swallowed up by praise. God was still on the throne” (Phillips). What spiritual disciplines can we glean from the life of Habakkuk? We are to pray for God’s work; we are to ponder God’s greatness; & we are to proclaim God’s will (& Word). Phillips concludes, “One of the best ways to instill a truth into the heart, soul, & conscience of an individual or a nation is to set that truth to music, to incorporate it into a great hymn. So Habakkuk set his poem to music, dedicated it ‘*to the chief singer,*’ & picked up one of his own ‘*stringed instruments*’ to help raise the song of praise.” What hymns are in your heart & on your lips?