

## From Despair to Praise

### Habakkuk 3:1-19

#### 1. Habakkuk starts in chapter 1 with a complaint in despair:

O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,  
and you will not hear?  
Or cry to you "Violence!"  
and you will not save?  
3 Why do you make me see iniquity,  
and why do you idly look at wrong?  
Destruction and violence are before me;  
strife and contention arise.

Can you share a time you were in despair, because of circumstances around you?

#### 2. The Lord gives him an unexpected answer:

<sup>5</sup> "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.  
6 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.

God says to him, that He is raising Babylon to seize Judah, his people.

Have you ever received an unexpected answer from God? How did you respond to it?

#### 3. Habakkuk has a second complaint

Are you not from everlasting,  
O Lord my God, my Holy One?  
We shall not die.  
O Lord, you have ordained them as a judgment,  
and you, O Rock, have established them for reproof.  
13 You who are of purer eyes than to see evil  
and cannot look at wrong,  
why do you idly look at traitors

and remain silent when the wicked swallows up  
the man more righteous than he?

Habakkuk says to God how can you raise a more wicked nation than your people to  
capture your people?

#### 4. God responds again and settles the matter

- **God is Sovereign**

He uses whoever He wants to accomplish his plans. He used Babylon yet that didn't mean He endorsed their wickedness, on the contrary they were going to be judged by it.

- **God will judge all nations**

As God reveals his plan we must also notice that there is no innocent party, yes the babylonians were a wicked nation but that did not make Judah innocent. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God and so all deserve judgement. Right now we may have a feeling of injustice of God with the spread of Covid 19 but the reality is that there is no one human being that is innocent there is a deeper virus that has affected all of us and that is sin, there is no innocent human being we all deserve judgement.

It is his undeserving grace that sustains us.

- **God provides a way for Life**

The righteous shall live by faith

There is life, preservation of life, endurance, fuller life as you trust my words and don't shrink back and are not puffed up filled with pride and ultimately destroyed like the babylonians.

But God is saying I know what is best for your life trust me

Compare Hebrews 10:37-39

#### 5. An Appropriate response

- **Remember His works (1-15)**

Look at his prayer, he recalls the deliverance of God to the people of Israel from Egypt.

He describes God as a mighty warrior with arrows and spears who brings salvation to his people.

I would like to say I don't know why God has allowed this virus but pestilence and plague biblically speaking are often used as pictures of divine judgement we see this in Ex 7:14-12:30, etc

During this time of crisis, remember his works. Remember how many times God has rescued you and helped you.

With the spread of the virus our only response at first may be where are you but remember He has been there for you throughout your life, and most important

remember your salvation in Christ. You were completely dead in sin and hopeless and Christ came and he saved you by his mercy remember that sweet salvation

- **Change of Attitude (16-17)**

We see a completely different Habakkuk from the one from chapter 1. Here he says I will wait patiently for your plan to unfold.

See for the people of Babylon to be judged by God Israel would first have to be taken into captivity by the Babylonians

He is saying I am gonna live by faith in your word I am gonna trust your plan and I am going to wait for your deliverance

Though the circumstances be tough and there is famine and the flock be cut off I will put my trust in Him

Habakkuk becomes an example of living by faith

- **Rejoice in the Lord (18-19)**

The joy of the Lord is our strength the more we look at him and behold him and rejoice in him the more we are strengthened.

Take joy in the God of your salvation.

Yes even in this time of chaos we are called to rejoice in Him.

Please share how can you put into real practice this response?