

## ***Habakkuk Chapter 3***

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**V: 1** A prophetic prayer, the cry of the prophet's heart, presented as a song.

- Title to Psalm 7: A "meditation" of David or a "shiggaion."
- Title to Psalm 86: "A prayer of David."
- Title to Psalm 90: "A prayer of Moses the man of God."

**V: 2** *"O LORD, I have heard Your speech and was afraid..."*

**Proverbs 9:10** "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

**Isaiah 66:2** "... but on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My Word."

- God has been talking about some terrifying things, the judgment that would befall Jerusalem and Judah in general - scary stuff.
- This is his prayer that even in wrath He would be merciful:

**Job 13:15** "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him..."

- Habakkuk has already indicated that he doesn't understand how God could use the un-righteous to judge the righteous (by comparison) he doesn't really understand what God is doing - but keep doing it! Revive your works, keep them alive.

*"In wrath remember mercy."*

- Knowing the character of God, that God is merciful he appeals to the mercy of God even in His wrath.

**Psalm 103:10** "He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities."

**V: 3** As God comes from the East, from the vicinity of Teman and Mt. Paran - both connected to Edom, the land of the East. He comes from the rising of the sun in His glory and majesty.

**Isaiah 63:1-3** *"<sup>1</sup>Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, this One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength? I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save. <sup>2</sup>Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? <sup>3</sup>I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have*

trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes.”

- Similarly Jesus descend from heaven in His glory and will come to the East Gate of Jerusalem and establish His eternal kingdom.

**Revelation 5:13-14** “<sup>13</sup>And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, forever and ever! <sup>14</sup>Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.”

- What a great day that will be when His glory covers the heavens, and the earth is full of His praise - describing the millennial reign of our Lord Jesus!

V: 4-5 Continuing in the description of His glory. Not too dissimilar to what we read in the Revelation of our Lord Jesus.

**Revelation 1:12-16** “<sup>12</sup>Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. <sup>14</sup>His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; <sup>15</sup>His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; <sup>16</sup>He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.”

- Death and destruction were before Him:

**Psalm 78:50-51** “<sup>50</sup>He made a path for His anger; He did not spare their soul from death, but gave their life over to the plague, <sup>51</sup>and destroyed all the firstborn in Egypt, the first of their strength in the tents of Ham.”

V: 6 He stood and measured the earth, meaning that the earth is small in comparison to Him.

**Isaiah 40:12** “Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, measured heaven with a span and calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a a balance?”

- He startled the nations:

**Psalm 114:4-7** “<sup>4</sup>The mountains skipped like rams, the little hills like lambs. <sup>5</sup>What ails you, O sea, that you fled? O Jordan, that you turned back? <sup>6</sup>O mountains,

that you skipped like rams? O little hills, like lambs? <sup>7</sup>Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob.”

“... *His ways are everlasting.*”

**Psalm 90:2** “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.”

V: 7-8 Affliction and turmoil in the tents or habitations of Cush / Ethiopia / Egypt and Midian - meaning the middle east.

- The displeasure of the rivers: One of the plagues against Egypt when Pharaoh refused to set God’s people free:

**Psalm 78:44** “Turned their rivers into blood, and their streams, that they could not drink.”

God will pour out His wrath upon the rivers and the sea:

**Revelation 16:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died. <sup>4</sup>Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.”

V: 9 Oaths were sworn, as in cursing:

**Psalm 7:13** “He prepares for Himself instruments of death; He makes His arrows into fiery shafts.”

**Revelation 16:9-11** “<sup>9</sup>And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory. <sup>10</sup>Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. <sup>11</sup>They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.”

V: 10-12 The prophet is describing a dual prophesy: the day of indignation and tribulation that will result in the destruction of Jerusalem under the heel of the Babylonians - and a future time of great tribulation when God pours out His wrath on a Christ rejecting world.

- Describing the cataclysmic events that would occur during each of these respective judgments - the mountains trembling - great earthquakes.

**Revelation 6:12** “I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.”

V: 13 In the midst of tribulation, He goes forth for the salvation of His people, His anointed while others are stricken.

**2 Peter 2:9** "... the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgement."

**1 Thessalonians 1:10** "and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."

**Romans 5:9** "Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him."

**1 Thessalonians 5:9** "For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."

**Revelation 3:10** "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth."

V: 14 They fell victim to their own devices, much like Haman being hung on the gallows he had built.

**Galatians 6:7-8** "7Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life."

V: 15 God preserved His children from the wrath of Pharaoh by ushering them through the Red Sea: Meaning in a miraculous never before seen kind of way.

**Psalms 77:19-20** "19Your way was in the sea, Your path in the great waters, and Your footsteps were not known. 20You led Your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron."

V: 16 Habakkuk is describing a physical reaction: Sometimes you hear things that make you shudder or even ache - he's reacting to having heard the voice of God.

**Isaiah 66:2** "... but on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My Word."

- Why can he rest in the day of trouble? Because God has separated him from it, protected him from it. That trouble, that judgment is not meant for him.

V: 17-18 There is a time coming to Jerusalem in Habakkuk's day where there will be a severe famine as the city is under siege and the food supply is cut off. People will deal terribly with each other, eventually resorting to cannibalism.

- Yet in the midst of that the people can still rejoice in the Lord and praise Him.

**1 Thessalonians 5:18** “In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

- Some have mistakenly or perhaps foolishly said that we should praise the Lord for all things, and that is not true.
- We can praise the Lord in all things, but not for all things.
- We can't praise the Lord for the slaughter that is taking place in Syria among the Druze, or the Christians in Sudan. We can't praise the Lord for the slaughter of the innocent Jews on October 7 - we don't praise the Lord for that - but we can praise Him in the midst of that - because no matter what our circumstances are He is always worthy of praise and adoration.

*“<sup>18</sup>Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.”*

**Isaiah 41:16** “You shall winnow them, the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them; you shall rejoice in the LORD, and glory in the Holy One of Israel.”

**Isaiah 61:10** “I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God... for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness...”

V: 19 “The LORD God...” “YHWH Adonai” is my strength - I will not rely upon my own strength or resources, I'll rely upon the LORD!

**Psalm 18:1-3** “<sup>1</sup>I will love You, O LORD, my strength. <sup>2</sup>The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. <sup>3</sup>I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from my enemies.”

- We will be sure footed, and on the right path. Deer seem to walk, jump, and bound over rocky uncertain terrain - and with the Lord's help we will do the same.

**Psalm 18:32-33** “<sup>32</sup>It is God who arms me with strength, and makes my way perfect. <sup>33</sup>He makes my feet like the feet of deer, and sets me on my high places.”

**Psalm 119:105** “Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”

**Isaiah 30:21** “Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, this is the way, walk in it, whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left.”

- That will be our song, as it was his.

## Overview:

**Authorship:** Habakkuk - “**Embracing**” Some have translated that as “**Wrestler**” because he grappled (**Grappler**) with difficult issues.

- Not much is known of Habakkuk personally, but it appears that he was a Levite serving as a priest in the Temple. The last verse of this book describes:

**Written to:** The Southern kingdom warning of impending judgment at the hand of the Babylonians.

**Time:** The final days of the Southern kingdom of Judah, 605 BC, contemporary with Isaiah, Nahum, Zephaniah and Jeremiah.

- Habakkuk spoke out against the corruption of the nation, government, and people.
- Habakkuk is the last of the minor prophets to preach to Judah prior to their being taken by the Babylonians the first time.

**Theme:** Lamenting the sin of Judah.

**Key verse:** **Habakkuk 2:4** “**But the just shall live by faith.**”

- Quoted 3X’s in the NT: **Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, Hebrews 10:38.**

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## Habakkuk Chapter 1: Habakkuk’s Complaint.

V: 1 Habakkuk’s commissioning.

V:2-4 The prophet worrying, seeing the iniquity of the people and God’s seeming lack of response.

V: 5-11 God’s reply: I am working - and I’m going to use the Chaldeans to do it.

“<sup>5</sup>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.”

## Habakkuk Chapter 2: The prophet watching and waiting.

V: 1-3 Write God’s vision, make it plain on tablets.

V: 4 Trust God’s word - “**The just shall live by faith.**”

V: 6-20 Habakkuk declares God’s judgment. 5 woes.

- V: 6-8 Woe to the selfish.
- V: 9-11 Woe to the covetous.
- V: 12-13 Woe to the exploiters
- V: 14 "God's glory will fill the earth."
- V: 15-17 Woe to the drunkards.
- V: 18-20 Woe to the idolaters.
- V: 20 "God is still on His throne."

### **Habakkuk Chapter 3: The prophet worshipping and praying.**

- V: 1-2 Habakkuk prays to God, crying out for mercy.
- V: 3-15 He describes the coming of the Lord; the power and glory of God.
- V: 16-19 He praises God with a song knowing that even in judgment God is worthy of praise and worship.

**Psalm 150:6** "Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!"

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98.15 % Zephaniah - Haggai - Zechariah - Malachi