

# HABAKKUK

══════ O LORD, HOW LONG? ══════

**Text:** Habakkuk 3:1-15

## 1. A plea for revival. - Habakkuk 3:1-2

The first two chapters of Habakkuk presented the prophet's question and answer time with God. Now that God had answered Habakkuk, the prophet brought a prayer to close the book.

It was written to be used as a part of the public worship services of Israel. It was set to "Shigionoth," which refers to the kind of music with which the psalm was to be accompanied.

Obviously having heard this incredible prophecy of judgment from one of the most violent and vicious nations on earth, Habakkuk was afraid.

There is a lot to be afraid of today. So what do we do?

**O LORD, revive Thy work in the midst of the years:**

Habakkuk simply prayed for *revival*. He knew how God once worked and how His people once responded, and Habakkuk wanted to see that again.

The prayer of Habakkuk shows us that revival is a work of God, not the achievement of man. There is something man can and must do for revival – simply cry out to God and plead for His reviving work.

He prayed that revival would be **known** at a definite *time and place (in the midst of the years)*, not just as an idea in someone's head.

**In wrath remember mercy:** Habakkuk prayed knowing well that they didn't *deserve* revival, so he prayed for **mercy**.

The idea is, "LORD, I know that we deserve your **wrath**, but in the midst of your **wrath remember mercy** and send revival among us."

## **2. The power of God on behalf of His people. - Habakkuk 3:3-15**

Teman, named after a grandson of Esau, was an Edomite city (Amos 1:12; Obadiah 9). Mount Paran was located in the Sinai Peninsula. Both allude to the place in which God displayed great power when He brought Israel into the land of Canaan.

The statement "God came from Teman" is speaking of God coming to Mount Sinai to make covenant with the people.

"Selah" (meaning pause and think about what you just heard), is an expression used many times in the Psalms.

This shows that God is Lord and Ruler of all the earth. Holy One is another way of speaking of God, who is all-powerful. The glory of God fills the heavens and the earth.

There is no other glory compared to the glory of God in the heavens.

As Habakkuk prayed for revival he began to praise the God who brings revival.

In this song of praise Habakkuk glorified the power and majesty of God.

#### **v4**

God is the Light. He not only is as the Light, He is the Light. The "horns coming out of His hands" show the power of His work. "Horns" symbolize power and "hands" symbolize work.

#### **v5**

The "burning coals at His feet" are compared to burnished brass. "Brass" symbolizes judgment. At His command, the pestilence moves. He sends the pestilence. He is also, the One who removes the pestilence.

It should bring great comfort for us to know that our God control the pestilence.

#### **v6-7**

The entire universe responds in fear at the approach of Almighty God. As at the Creation, the earth and its inhabitants are at His disposal.

“Cushan ... Midian”: Probably referring to one people living in the Sinai Peninsula region, where Moses’ wife was from. She was identified as being both Midianite and Cushite. Cushan is speaking most likely, of Ethiopia. Midian is another country who was opposed to God’s people. They will all tremble, when God takes vengeance for His people.

### **v8**

This asks the question of whether God was angry with the rivers, or the sea, when He showed His power over them? The answer is no. He was angry with the sinful people, not with the sea, or the river.

### **v9**

This is describing the Lord as a warrior King. The "bow being naked"; means it is drawn ready to use. God had made covenant with His people, and promised to deliver them. God does exactly what He says.

### **v10**

At the power and presence of God, at mount Sinai, they trembled at the amazing power of God on display.

"The overflowing of the water passed by": Usually refers to the overflowing of the river Jordan at the time of the crossing of the Israelites.

### **v11**

The Sun and Moon are both incredible testaments of God’s creative power. God created the sun and moon on the 4th day of creation and both are submissive to His will.

This verse is speaking of Israel's victory over the Amorites at Gibeon.

***See Joshua 10:12-14***

All of this is explaining to us that God controls all of these things.

**v12**

“March”: Literally “threshed,” are terms used to depict military invasions and the execution of judgment when the children of Israel conquered the land of Canaan.

**v13**

This is a reference to the salvation that God gave Moses and the children of Israel as He delivered them from bondage in the land of Egypt. It also seems that this has a double fulfillment in the intimate victory over Satan both in the death of Christ on the cross and the final destruction of Satan in Hell for all eternity.

**v15**

Another reference to God's miraculous, protective intervention on behalf of Israel at the Red Sea. The historical event demonstrates His control over nature provides assurance to Habakkuk that the Lord could be counted on to save His people once more.

**Conclusion:** What an incredible prayer that the people of God would sing! We need revival and God has the power to bring it!

Just look at what He did with the nation of Israel in bringing them to the promised land! Look at what He will do in

overcoming Satan and seeing up His reign from the throne of David in Jerusalem!

I know these are scary days. But the God who made the Sun, and the Moon, and delivered the Israelites is still on the throne.

If you know Him as your Savior you are his child!

You are forever safe in Him!



## GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What are your initial thoughts from today's message?
2. What does "Shigionoth" mean?
3. Why is it important to remember that revival is the Lord's Work?
4. What is the statement "God came from Teman" speaking of?
5. What do the "horns coming out of His hands" symbolize?
6. When God showed His power over the sea, was it because He was angry with the sea?
7. What was meant by the "naked bow"?