

HABAKKUK

══════ O LORD, HOW LONG? ══════

Text: Habakkuk 3:16-19

Knowing God's strength Habakkuk comes to the conclusion that he can trust God even in a crisis.

1. Habakkuk trusts the LORD. - Habakkuk 3:16-18

When I heard, my belly trembled: Habakkuk showed the proper response of man under the sovereign power of God. He recognized his own weakness and low standing before this God of all majesty and power.

"I might rest": The Lord had answered his prayer; the Lord would vindicate His righteousness and ultimately restore a truly repentant people.

While the answer satisfied Habakkuk, the thought of a Chaldean invasion of his people has also left him physically exhausted and overwhelmed.

Nevertheless, the prophet could "wait quietly for the day of distress" because he knew the Lord would judge righteously.

He knew that this God of majesty and power is not *diminished* because man faces difficult trials.

Rejoice in the LORD... joy in the God of my salvation: With desperate circumstances like he just described, Habakkuk could find no joy in the **fig tree** or in the **vines** or in the **fields** or **flock**; yet God was unchanged. He could still **rejoice in the LORD**, because He is unchanging.

Habakkuk wasn't just practicing positive thinking and shut out the idea of the barren fig tree and the empty cattle stalls. Instead, he saw those problems for what they were and remembered that God was greater than them all.

Benjamin Franklin – who was not a Christian, though he had great respect for the Bible – used Habakkuk 3:17-19 to confound a group of sophisticated, cultured despisers of the Bible. When he was in Paris he heard this group mocking the Bible, and mocking Franklin for his admiration of it. One evening he came among them and said that he had a manuscript containing an ancient poem, that he was quite impressed by the poem and he wanted to read it to them. When he read Habakkuk 3:17-19, his listeners received it with praise and admiration – “What a magnificent poem!” they said, and wanted to know where they could get copies. Franklin told them to just look in Habakkuk chapter 3.

2. Habakkuk is strengthened by the Lord's strength. - Habakkuk 3:19

The LORD God is my strength: Habakkuk could only properly declare this after he prayed the prayer of faith in the previous verses. He rightly declared that his strength was *not* in fig trees or vines or fields or flocks, but only in the **LORD God**.

We might even say that *what we praise is our strength*.

If our words, life, or heart praise our own achievements and resources, that is our *strength*.

If our words, life, or heart praise our own person or an idea, then those are his *strength*.

We demonstrate that the **LORD God** is our **strength** when we praise Him.

He will make my feet like hinds' feet: Habakkuk thought of the hind or deer running about on the **high places**, never losing a step and never falling.

More than that, the deer dance and leap on the hills – they are full of life and joy.

So Habakkuk proclaimed, “God will set my steps that firmly and lively also. As I trust in Him, He will not allow me to slip or fall, and I will do more than merely plod along – I will skip about with life and joy.”

Conclusion: This world finds us in a very difficult place. There is a lot of turmoil and there are a lot of things that we just don't understand. The more we give our opinions of things the more it becomes clear that we are in a place of unrest, and we are very uncomfortable.

Where do you find your strength?

Where do you find your joy?

It is my prayer that like Habakkuk you would live by faith. Trusting God for each and every day. Knowing that He is on control and He will make everything right!

I pray that you will find joy in the Lord, the God of your salvation!

That you would find strength and stability in God, in His wisdom, in His Justice, and His love for you and this world.



GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION

1. How did God speak to your heart from this text?
2. How are you doing with all that is going on around us?
3. Does it seem like the Lord is in control? Why or why not?
4. Where do you need to exercise faith?
5. Why can you rejoice even though there is no harvest or provision?
6. How does God make my feet like deer's (hinds) feet?
7. After studying Habakkuk what should be our response to Covid-19?
8. After studying Habakkuk what should be our response to the Black Lives Matter movement? How can we bring healing and understanding to world?