

Habakkuk 3

Habakkuk 3.1-2

V1 – What is *chapter 3* composed of? A prayer from Habakkuk to God

-Why would Habakkuk want to pray to God at this time? A feeling of humility after God's answer in *chapter 2*

-Notice the word: *Shigionoth* (not clearly understood, but it is believed to be a poem of great emotion)

Notice that this entire book is in poetry form (later rewritten by Habakkuk as a poem)

V2– Habakkuk had heard about the works of God (*Beacon Bible Commentary*: freeing of Israelites from Egypt, the crossing the Red Sea, etc.)

-What does Habakkuk beg for? For God to be merciful to the Israelites)

Habakkuk 3.3-7

V3 –Teman: Northwest of Edom and Paran: mountain between Sinai and Edom

-God would come from a far-off place to save the Israelites

-And notice how Habakkuk is full of praise for God – he has learned something from this experience

V4– Description of God in the eyes of Habakkuk? Sunlight

-This prayer is entering into apocalyptic language

-What is coming from the hands of God? Rays of light

-He had concealed His power (for the moment)

V5 – How can God destroy a nation if he chooses to? By a pestilence

-What minor prophet described the destruction of the Israelites by a locust plague? Joel

V6 – What part of this verse is apocalyptic? Mountains being shattered, hills collapsing (same as language in *Matthew 24* and *Acts 2* and the book of *Revelation*)

V7– What were the enemies of God's people doing in their tents? Trembling

Habakkuk 3.8-15

V8 – Any ideas of what Habakkuk is talking about here? When were the rivers “restrained”?

-At the creation

-God separated the land from the waters

-so Habakkuk is talking about the creation in *Genesis 1*

-Does God literally ride on a horse? No – more apocalyptic language

V9 – God unloosed his bow and turned chaos into order – beautiful apocalyptic (and anthropomorphic) language

-He divided the earth with rivers

V 10 – What is Habakkuk talking about here? The flood in Noah's day (the downpour of waters)
Notice: the deep lifted up its hands

V 11 – What is this a reference to? When Joshua made the sun stand still - **Read Joshua 10.12-13**
-God's arrows and his spear (apocalyptic language)

V 12 – Notice the marching of God (at the head of his people, leading them out of captivity)

V 13 – A reference to? The Passover – the death of the first born (including the first born son of Pharaoh)

V 14 – How did Pharaoh ultimately try to stop the Exodus? With the Egyptian army

V 15 – What did God do to the Egyptian army? Drowned them all in the Red Sea (many waters)
-**What is Habakkuk doing in these verses?** Remembering (for his own good) the power of God

Habakkuk 3.16.19

V 16 – What was his reaction to the pronouncement of God that God was going to use the Babylonians to destroy the Southern Kingdom of Israel? His inward parts trembled and his lips quivered
-he felt as if his bones were undergoing decay, and he shook in fear
-**Why was he in such distress?** Because there was nothing that he could do at this point about the situation
-**Why could he do nothing?** Because the people were not going to repent, and therefore the decision of God would be carried out
-**Therefore what did Habakkuk have to wait for?** For the arrival of the Babylonians in 586BC

V 17-19 – The most beautiful passage in the Old Testament

-**How bad might this get?**

1. The fig trees might stop producing
2. There might be no grapes on the grape vines
3. The fields might produce no crops
4. The flocks of sheep might disappear from the land
5. There might be no cattle left in Israel

V 18 – But even if all of that was going to happen, what would be the attitude of Habakkuk? He would still praise God and rejoice in the God of his salvation

V 19 – What is Habakkuk's final conclusion about the coming destruction of the nation that he loved? God will be his strength

What is a hind? A kind of deer in the Near East (similar to a gazelle)

-the gazelle can stand even on ragged mountain peaks and rocks and not fall

Lessons from this book:

-God does not have to explain his ways to us or to anybody else (example: the recent tsunami)

Read Luke 13.1-5

-God uses evil people in the world to accomplish his goals, and he has not asked us to help

-God wants us to have faith in him and strive to be pleasing to him

SONG/God moves in a Mysterious Way/#192, Praise for the Lord

Romans 13.1-7 – we are clearly taught to obey the powers that be, and God will raise up nations and put down nations, as His will is carried out

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