

1:1-1:11 First Prayer and Response

1-4 Habakkuk's Prayer

5-11 God's Response

1:12-2:20 Second Prayer and Response

1:12-2:1 Habakkuk's Prayer and Posture

2:2-20 God's Response

2-5 Call to Faith

6-20 Five Woes on the Wicked

3:1-3:19 Final Prayer of Faith**Yet I will rejoice in Yahweh***Habakkuk, Part IV*

Habakkuk 3:1-19

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I. Review

Habakkuk asks two fundamental questions: "Does God care about injustice?" and "Why does God permit and even use injustice to accomplish His purposes?" God has answered both questions, assuring Habakkuk that He does care about injustice and that eventually He will set all to rights. Meanwhile, "the just man shall live by _____" (Hab 2:4). We must trust God's promise and wait upon Him to fulfill it.

II. Habakkuk's Prayer of Faith

- A. Introduction (1)
- B. Petition of Faith (2-3b cf. Dt 33:2)

²O LORD, I have heard Your speech and was afraid; O LORD, revive Your work in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make it known; In wrath remember mercy. ³God came from Teman, The Holy One from Mount Paran. *Selah*

Habakkuk prays that God would act for the ultimate blessing of His people and the public acknowledgment of His justice. He quotes from Moses' final blessing on Israel (Dt 33:2).

"The LORD came from Sinai, And dawned on them from Seir [Teman, Edom]; He shone forth from Mount Paran, And He came with ten thousands of saints; From His right hand Came a fiery law for them."

- C. Remembrance of God's Salvation

- 1. In the Exodus (3c-9b cf. Dt 32:39-43)

³... His glory covered the heavens, And the earth was full of His praise. ⁴His brightness was like the light; He had rays flashing from His hand, And there His power was hidden. ⁵Before Him went pestilence, And fever followed at His feet. ⁶He stood and measured the earth; He looked and startled the nations. And the everlasting mountains were scattered, The perpetual hills bowed. His ways are everlasting. ⁷I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction; The curtains of the land of Midian trembled. ⁸O LORD, were You displeased with the rivers, Was Your anger against the rivers, Was Your wrath against the sea, That You rode on Your horses, Your chariots of salvation? ⁹Your bow was made quite ready; Oaths were sworn over Your arrows. *Selah*

Why did God disturb the earth and the nations in the Exodus? Was it just because He was angry? No! It was because He was riding *His chariots of salvation* (8), come to save His people. As *The Song of Moses* proclaims (Dt 32:39-43):

⁴⁰For I raise My hand to heaven, And say, "As I live forever, ⁴¹If I whet My glittering sword, And My hand takes hold on judgment, I will render vengeance to My enemies, And repay those who hate Me. ⁴²I will make My arrows drunk with blood, And My sword shall devour flesh, With the blood of the slain and the captives, From the heads of the leaders of the enemy." ' ⁴³"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people; For He will avenge the blood of His servants, And render vengeance to His adversaries; He will provide atonement for His land and His people."

- 2. In the Conquest & Kingdom (9c-13)

⁹... You divided the earth with rivers. ¹⁰The mountains saw You and trembled; The overflowing of the water passed by. The deep uttered its voice, And lifted its hands on high. ¹¹The sun and moon stood still in their habitation; At the light of Your arrows they went, At the shining of Your glittering spear. ¹²You

marched through the land in indignation; You trampled the nations in anger. ¹³You went forth for the salvation of Your people, For salvation with Your Anointed. You struck the head from the house of the wicked, By laying bare from foundation to neck. Selah

3. In the life of Habakkuk (14-16)

¹⁴You thrust through with his own arrows The head of his villages. They came out like a whirlwind to scatter me; Their rejoicing was like feasting on the poor in secret. ¹⁵You walked through the sea with Your horses, Through the heap of great waters. ¹⁶When I heard, my body trembled; My lips quivered at the voice; Rottenness entered my bones; And I trembled in myself, That I might rest in the day of trouble. When he comes up to the people, He will invade them with his troops.

D. Declaration of Faith (17-19c)

¹⁷Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls—
¹⁸Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. ¹⁹The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, And He will make me walk on my high hills.

E. Conclusion (19d)

III. Our Prayer of Faith

A. Revive your work again! (Ex 34:6-7; Ps 80)

Habakkuk's prayer helps us answer three questions. First, *"How ought we to petition the Lord in times of judgment?"*

"Yahweh, Yahweh God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation." (Ex 34:6-7)

Habakkuk's prayer, *"In wrath remember _____"*, reminds us of the historic Christian prayer, *"Kyrie eleison!" "Lord, have mercy!"* We utilize this prayer at various times in our liturgical year. It is a very fitting prayer as we face times of judgment.

B. Recount the Lord's Faithfulness (Rom 8:31-39)

Second, *"How ought we to encourage ourselves and others in times of judgment?"* Habakkuk guides the way by recounting the Lord's _____ in the past. The pre-eminent display of God's love for His people is the death and resurrection of Jesus. God sent His Son to deliver us from sin and death. This empowers us to face the trials of life with faith and hope. As Paul reminds the Romans, *"If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"* (Rom 8:31-32)

C. Rejoice in the Lord (Phil 4:4)

Finally, *"What does faith look like in times of judgment?"* Faith looks like a confident and robust _____ in the Lord. Habakkuk would urge us, as Paul writes to the Philippians, *"Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice!"* (4:4)

IV. Conclusion