

Habakkuk 3

When God Answers Part 3 - 10.29.17

In **Habakkuk 1-2**, Habakkuk complained to God, but now in **chapter 3**, instead of complaining anymore, Habakkuk broke out in prayer in the form of a song.

Key thought: When I face difficult times, sometimes I have to change my PERSPECTIVE! Originally Habakkuk was concerned with the injustice in the world and how evil people are allowed to prosper, but now he comes to understand that God is in control and is working in his world.

Let's look at six things that Habakkuk can teach us in his prayer:

Habakkuk 3:2 (NIV) ² *LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, LORD. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.*

- **#1 Instead of being overwhelmed by fear, Habakkuk PRAYED and sang to the Lord about His faithfulness.**
- Here, Habakkuk prays knowing very well that they don't DESERVE revival, so he prays for **mercy**.
- It is true that God's wrath is inevitable to those who walk in darkness, but God's mercy is also inevitable to those who will **LIVE** by **FAITH**.
- If we want to see revival in our land, we all must first confess our sins, spend time daily in His presence through reading Scripture and prayer and we have to determine to say **NO** to every temptation our flesh desires and then say **YES** to God's will and His ways.

After this thought, Habakkuk stopped looking at his fears and started focusing on the faithfulness of God from the past.

- **#2 If we want God to move in our future, we must REMEMBER what He's done in the past.**

In **Habakkuk 3:3-15**, Habakkuk used vivid Hebrew imagery to look back at God's mighty actions from the past.

- In **verse 3**, Habakkuk remembers how God's glory came down on Moses at Mount Sinai. (see **Exodus 19**)
- In **verse 4**, Habakkuk illustrates the coming of God's brilliant splendor as seen in the light of the sun at sunrise.
- In **verse 5**, Habakkuk illustrates that God is fully capable of sending judgment by plagues and pestilence. (see **Exodus 7-12**)
- In **verse 6**, Habakkuk illustrates God's dominance and power over the earth.
- In **verse 7**, Habakkuk remembered when God gave Cushan to Othniel (**Judges 3**) and Midian to Gideon (**Judges 7**).

- In **verses 8-10**, Habakkuk illustrates God's rule over one of the basic elements of nature – WATER. (see **Exodus 7:20-21, Exodus 14:15-28; 15:8-10, Joshua 3:14-17**).
- In **verse 11**, Habakkuk illustrates how God has power over the sun and the moon (see **Joshua 10**).
- In **verse 12**, Habakkuk illustrates how God has marched through His world by dealing justice to the nations.
- In **verse 13-14**, Habakkuk gives the reason why God has showed up in the past, it was to DELIVER His people.
- Finally, in **verse 15**, Habakkuk brings to remembrance that God safely walked His people through the Red Sea, but the pursuing Egyptians were swallowed by the seas as God delivered His people (see **Exodus 14**).

Now, in **verses 16-19**, Habakkuk changes from reminiscing back to the reality that God is coming to judge the land.

- In **verse 16**, Habakkuk acknowledges that **he heard, understood and ACCEPTED** what God said about the devastation that the coming of the Babylonians will bring.
- Habakkuk knows that even though many will go into exile, many will die, the land will be ruined and that Jerusalem and the temple will be destroyed. Yet he has placed his faith in God, that God knows what's best for him and His people.
- **#3 In order for God to be praised, we have to move our minds from our fears to our FAITH!** (see **Hebrews 11:6** and **Ephesians 3:20-21**).
- When bad things come our way, know that God can USE them for good in our lives, but we will need to wait patiently.
- **#4 Habakkuk knew that no matter what the future holds, GOD holds the future.**

In **verse 17**, Habakkuk describes how he thinks Babylon would come.

In **verse 18**, Habakkuk states, "Yet I will rejoice in the Lord. I will be joyful in God my Savior."

- **#5 Don't let circumstance dictate your ATTITUDE.**
- Habakkuk realized that INNER peace did not depend on OUTWARD prosperity.
- He's saying, "Even in my darkest hour, I will trust in you." (see **Psalms 34:1, 46:1, Acts 10:19-34** and **James 1:2-3**)
- **Will you praise or will you complain?**

Finally, Habakkuk says in **verse 19**, "The **Sovereign LORD** is my strength".

- **#6 God doesn't always change our circumstances, but He can change us to MEET our circumstances.**
- **Hopefully, you can look at Habakkuk and learn that no matter what happens TO me, I need to focus on what's happening IN me.**