

Habakkuk 3

In this little book we are seeing the life of Habakkuk being changed.

- In ch. 1 he is complaining to God, - almost accusing God of allowing unjust and sinful men to ‘have free rein’.
- In ch 2 he devotes himself to watching and waiting; we saw how God blessed Habakkuk when he took the time to watch and wait

[Assurance of God’s Grace (v.4); ... Glory (v.14); ... Government (v.20)]

In ch. 3 we find the prophet in the place where he is worshipping God:

Praying (vv.1-2)

Pondering (vv.3-15)

Meditating on God’s Glory

God came (vv.3-5)

God stood (vv.6,7)

God marched (vv.8-15)

Praising (vv.16-19)

To think that all this started with “having problems” with God! *God does not turn away from those who out of a sincere heart ask honest questions.*

Habakkuk faced reality, - he told God about it, ... *and God listened!* Here we find the most powerful place to be, - ... before God, in total desperation, yet willing to trust Him completely What did Habakkuk learn? – *we don’t need explanations, we live by promises/faith.*

His world hadn't changed any!. The nation of Israel needed revival (v.2); God's anger was being demonstrated throughout the nations (v.12). Apart from all that, ... this man who began his prophecy *in sorrow* is now concluding it *with a song* (vv. 17-19).

I WILL REST IN GOD (The LORD God is my Strength, v.19)

- Habakkuk was trembling, ... quivering; his whole world was threatening to fall apart.
- God was coming to judge Israel, - his country people, - and he was using the wicked cruel nation of Babylon (‘the day of trouble’, v.16).

- Haven't you often been standing where Habakkuk was standing? - your heart has been beating against your rib cage because of fear and apprehension (v.16a)
- "How can I stand by and not be afraid, ... for my loved ones, neighbours, friends?"
- Here is what Habakkuk is teaching us, -
 - God has a definite plan of retribution,
 - when it is completed revival and salvation is the consequence,
 - meanwhile the child of God must remain in humble obedience to His word,
- He told me to "watch and wait" (vv.2,3), and that is what I must do.
- Note that it is not an act of inactivity, because it is difficult to "watch and wait".
- ... especially when God works according to His time calendar!
- I believe very strongly that God knows the number of His Elect and that He will gather every one of them in before the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ,
- There are those who also say, "Yes, He knows the number of His Elect, therefore why do I have to go out and evangelise because they are going to get saved anyway!"
- Look at what God said to Habakkuk, "Watch and wait", - that's not a directive to sit and do nothing (similarly Mt. 28.19,20).
 - Is. 40:18. But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.
- The enemy is advancing, but nonetheless, "I will rest in God".

I WILL REJOICE IN GOD

("He will make my feet like hinds' feet", v.19)

- When you travel through Israel you see the deer standing on the rocks, ... up a little bit from the paths and the roads.
- They are beautiful, ... and they are all over the country.
- One moment you see them, the next moment they are skipping over the stones and the rocks.
- Just a few verses earlier, - v. 16, - his lips were quivering, ... now they are praising.
- In order to understand the horror that would fall upon the Israelites, read Lamentations,
- In captivity the children of Israel had lost their song,

- Ps. 137.1 By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. 2 We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof 3 For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion 4 How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?
- But after 70 years they came back from Babylon with a new song on their lips.
 - Ps 118. 8 The LORD hath chastened me sore; but he hath not given me over unto death. 19 Open to me the gates of righteousness: I will go into them, and I will praise the LORD. 14 The LORD is my strength and song, and is become my salvation.
- Habakkuk couldn't rejoice in his circumstances, but he *could* rejoice in his God!

I WILL RELY ON GOD

(He will make me to walk upon mine high places, v.19)

- "He will make me walk". - ... what have I just been doing? ... I have been *standing, watching, and waiting*, ... now I'm walking!
- "I never thought I would be walking on the high hills again."
- "I never thought I would have a skip in my heart again."
- "I never thought I would happy to be alive."
- *That was how* Habakkuk was affected when He lived his life according to the command of God.
- His sorrow had been turned into a song, How?
 - He trusted God, - not an idle trust, ... a 100% faith in God,
 - He believed God, even when no-one else did,
 - He believed God, even when it was not fashionable,
- He believed God, even when it was against all the odds.
- But then, isn't that what faith in God is all about! (ONLY GOD!)

CONCLUSION.

- It makes no difference if my heart is pounding. - *I can rest in God.*
- My lips are quivering, - *I can rejoice in God.*
- My knees are trembling, - *I can rely on God.*
- Habakkuk was just about ready to quit. ... give in. 'shut up shop', and God intervened bringing him hope and promise.