

Habakkuk 3

Praying in Faith

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Habakkuk's Prayer

A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet. On shigionoth.

2 Lord, I have heard of your fame;
I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord.

Repeat them in our day,
in our time make them known;
in wrath remember mercy.

3 God came from Teman,
the Holy One from Mount Paran.

His glory covered the heavens
and his praise filled the earth.

4 His splendor was like the sunrise;
rays flashed from his hand,
where his power was hidden.

5 Plague went before him;
pestilence followed his steps.

6 He stood, and shook the earth;
he looked, and made the nations tremble.

The ancient mountains crumbled
and the age-old hills collapsed—
but he marches on forever.

7 I saw the tents of Cushan in distress,
the dwellings of Midian in anguish.

8 Were you angry with the rivers, Lord?
Was your wrath against the streams?

Did you rage against the sea
when you rode your horses
and your chariots to victory?

9 You uncovered your bow,
you called for many arrows.

You split the earth with rivers;

10 the mountains saw you and writhed.

Torrents of water swept by;
the deep roared
and lifted its waves on high.

11 Sun and moon stood still in the heavens

Shigionoth likely refers to a musical instrument, setting the stage for Habakkuk's prayer, which is a hymn meant to be sung.

at the glint of your flying arrows,
at the lightning of your flashing spear.
12 In wrath you strode through the earth
and in anger you threshed the nations.
13 You came out to deliver your people,
to save your anointed one.
You crushed the leader of the land of wickedness,
you stripped him from head to foot.
14 With his own spear you pierced his head
when his warriors stormed out to scatter us,
gloating as though about to devour
the wretched who were in hiding.
15 You trampled the sea with your horses,
churning the great waters.

16 I heard and my heart pounded,
my lips quivered at the sound;
decay crept into my bones,
and my legs trembled.
Yet I will wait patiently for the day of calamity
to come on the nation invading us.
17 Though the fig tree does not bud
and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails
and the fields produce no food,
though there are no sheep in the pen
and no cattle in the stalls,
18 yet I will rejoice in the Lord,
I will be joyful in God my Savior.

19 The Sovereign Lord is my strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
he enables me to tread on the heights.

For the director of music. On my stringed instruments.

The Bible is almost 1/3 poetry, and with that poetry comes a lot of imagery, which can help the reader understand the scene in descriptive ways. Habakkuk uses imagery here in his picture of God, which also recalls the deeds and character of the LORD as seen elsewhere as the Scriptures recount God's actions in history for his people. This imagery helps us understand the character and actions of God more clearly.

Part One: Worthy of Praise

? Consider the context as we get to chapter 3 of this letter. How do chapters 1-2 lead Habakkuk to this prayer and praise?

? Habakkuk 3:2 asks of God: "in wrath remember mercy". What is the significance of this verse? Why is it challenging to think about the wrath of God?

? What strikes you about the poetic imagery of God in verses 3-15? How do the descriptors cause God to be characterized?

Part Two: A Big God to Worship

? Let's focus on verse 13. How does this foreshadow Jesus' victory?

? How does the portrayal of God contrast with the imagery of Habakkuk in verses 16-19? What is Habakkuk's response to those images of God?

? In v. 18, Habakkuk prays and declares that he will rejoice in the LORD. Does your prayer life resemble rejoicing in the LORD? How is prayer impacting your life of faith?

? What role does worship play in your walk with Jesus?

? How does pausing and reflecting on the work of God in your life encourage you onward in the life of faith? How do we see Habakkuk doing that?

Habakkuk Wrap Up

Matthew 6:9-13

9 "This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
10 your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
11 Give us today our daily bread.
12 And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
13 And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.

? How does praying in this way encourage us to seek God as we live in faith?

For Discussion And Accountability

? Habakkuk ends this prayer by declaring, “The Sovereign LORD is my strength.” What area of your life do you need God to be *your* strength this week? Is there something challenging in your life right now that you need to trust that God is in control?

? How can you make praying in faith a priority this week?