

Minor Prophets
Habakkuk
Lesson 4

Text: **Habakkuk 3:1-19**

Intro: In chapter one, we see Habakkuk looking at his circumstances. And as a result he is confused as to what is happening. In the second chapter we see him climb to the top of the watch tower, and starts to see God. Notice the circumstances of Habakkuk did not change, it was him that changed. All that was going on before was still going on. But because Habakkuk had elevated himself to see God and to seek God, his view had changed. And without explanation of current circumstances, Habakkuk started to live by faith in the promises of God. We may ask the question what took Habakkuk from a low position focusing on the circumstances to the high position focusing on God? Warren Weirsby said we can do it in the same way: Prayer, Vision, and Faith, the same spiritual disciplines that can help change our viewpoint.

I. The Prophets Worship,

A. Pray for the Work of God, **Vs. 1&2**

i. **A Prayer Psalm,**

- a) during the intro, I mentioned that Habakkuk may served in the temple as a musician.
- b) One of the reason that is thought is this portion of the book,
 - it is written in a psalm form, and could have been used even after this as a psalm
 - Other examples of this type of prayer psalm are: **Psalm 17;86;90;102&142**

ii. **The Reason of the Prayer,**

- a) **vs.2** says “I have heard thy speech”
 - it can also be translated to I have heard thy report.
 - Habakkuk was saying not only did I perceive you, I heard you,
 - SO-Wo-BONO,
- b) When ever we hear the report of the Lord, it should motivate us to:
 - pray, and to Obey
 - It also should drive us into the word of God to study,
 - and as a return this will generate FAITH,
 - **Romans 10:16&17** “But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? 17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
 - When we pray or study we come to know God more and better, and our faith is increased.

iii. **Getting to Know God,**

- a) First, it should be the Christian desire to know Christ better and better, that is More about Jesus would I know...
- b) but the fact is, often the knowledge of Christ comes at great price,
 - **Philippians 3:10** “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;”
 - Paul understood, that knowledge of God can be uncomfortable,
 - Moses trembled when the Lord Gave him the law, (**Heb12:18-21**)
 - Joshua and David both fell on their face before the Lord, (**Josh 5:13-15, I Chro.21:16**)
 - Isaiah said “I'm a dead man”

- Daniel became ill after his vision from the Lord (**Dan 8:27 10:11**)
- **Matthew 17:6** “And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.”
 - this was the result after seeing the glorified Christ on the mount of transfiguration, and hearing the voice of God.
- When John saw the Lord in **Revelation 1:17** he fell at His feet as if he were dead.
- A.W. Tozer said “To know God is at once the easiest and most difficult thing in the world”
- But God does want us to know Him,
 - **James 4:8** “Draw nigh unto God, and he will draw nigh to you....”

B. Ponder the Greatness of God, Vs. 3-15

i. From Teman to Paran,

- Scholars tell us that Paran is another name for the entire Sinai Peninsula, or for Mt. Sinai it's self.
- Teman is used to refer to Edom,
 - if we look at the map, Habakkuk is making a song telling of the greatness of God from the departure of Egypt on Mt. Sinai to the promised land.

ii. A Song about the Glory of God,

- The Holy one,
 - the direct article, as opposed to the indirect
- His Glory,
 - His substance, his weight, his makeup
- His Brightness,
 - the light,
- His Horns,
 - the horns here are rays or flashing,
 - it is the idea of power exuding from Him.
 - When we look at historical artwork, the power of God is often depicted as rays coming out of Him.
- Once again we get a fuller picture of God,
 - not only are these true, but also God is a God of judgment.

iii. Standing in Power, Vs6&7

- Why would you measure a field? Or the footage of a house?
 - Would you go to someone else field or home to measure?
 - Here we see Gd standing and measuring the whole earth,
 - this is an indication that it is God's
- And because it is His, he has the right to do with it as He pleases,
 - the language used here is representative of nations and kingdoms,
 - it is speaking of the lands that stood in the way of Israel during the Exodus journey.
 - When they saw what God did for Israel, then they feared what He would do to them.

iv. God Marched in Victory, Vs8-15

- the picture being painted here is the Exodus journey again,
 - The Red Sea opens to let them out of Egypt,
 - The Jordan opened to let them into the Promised Land

- God punished the Egyptians by allowing their chariots to sink and drown, while his spiritual chariots were salvation to His people.
- b) **Vs.9** pictures various battles Israel fought on their way into the promised land.
- c) **vs.10** describes the victory of Deborah and Barak in Judges **4&5** (the rain stooped the enemy chariots)
- d) **Joshua 3:11** is the stopping of the day for Joshua to win the battle, **Vs.11**
- e) **vs.13-15** describes any number of battles God won for the nation of Israel.
 - It encourages us all when we stop to focus on what God has done for us, and how many times He has not let us down.

C. Pronounce the Will of God, **Vs. 16-19**

i. The Confessions of Habakkuk,

- a) think about what Habakkuk knew was getting ready to happen,
 - his people, even himself being taken captive, or killed.
 - But Habakkuk will still put his trust in God.
- b) It was like it made Habakkuk sick to his stomach
 - It is as if Habakkuk has given himself over to trust the Lord,
- c) I Will Wait on the Lord,

ii. I Will Rejoice,

- a) it is difficult to rejoice in our own circumstances sometimes,
 - but think about Habakkuk, knowing what is getting ready to happen, yet he can still say “I will rejoice” **vs.18**
- b) If we place our lives in the hand of God, we can depend on Him to do what is best,
 - and if that means the end for us, then we have not died in vain.

iii. I Will Rely on the Lord,

- a) in all of this, Habakkuk came to the place where he learned the truth, The Lord is my Strength, He is my deliverer,
- b) When Habakkuk started this book, he had questions for God,
 - God told Him how He was going to solve the problems,
 - Habakkuk wanted to know why, but As he watched, he saw the:
 - Greatness, The Glory, the Holiness, and the Judgment of God
 - and as a result of seeing God, Habakkuk found comfort in Him,
 - and was at the end willing to say: I will Wait on the Lord, Will Rejoice in the Lord, and I will Rely on the Lord.