

Pastor Dave – Sunday Sun 11th August

A study in Habakkuk – Chapter 3

The Prayer: Faith Glorifying a Faithful God

Habakkuk's Third Prayer.

Story of Incident in the life of George Miller.

Key Thought: "My eye is not on the density of the fog, but on the living God who controls every circumstance of my life."

The following incident from the life of George Müller is related by Mr. Inglis, who heard the story from the captain of the ship with whom Müller prayed.

When I first came to America, thirty-one years ago. I crossed the Atlantic with the captain of a steamer who was one of the most devoted men I ever knew, and when we were off the banks of Newfoundland he said to me:

"Mr. Inglis, the last time I crossed here, five weeks ago, one of the most extraordinary things happened which, has completely revolutionized the whole of my Christian life. Up to that time I was one of your ordinary Christians. We had a man of God on board, George Müller, of Bristol. I had been on that bridge for twenty-two hours and never left it. I was startled by someone tapping me on the shoulder. It was George Müller:

"'Captain, he said, 'I have come to tell you that I must be in Quebec on Saturday afternoon.' This was Wednesday.

"'It is impossible,' I said.

"'Very well, if your ship can't take me, God will find some other means of locomotion to take me. I have never broken an engagement in fifty-seven years.'

"'I would willingly help you. How can I? I am helpless.'

"'Let us go down to the chartroom and pray.'

"'I looked at that man of God, and I thought to myself, what lunatic asylum could that man have come from? I never heard of such a thing.

"'Mr. Müller,' I said, 'do you know how dense the fog is?'

"'No,' he replied, 'my eye is not on the density of the fog, but on the living God who controls every circumstance of my life.'

"He got down on his knees and prayed one of the most simple prayers. I muttered to myself: 'That would suit a children's class where the children were not more than eight or nine years old.' The burden of his prayer was something like this: 'O Lord, if it is consistent with Thy will, please remove this fog in five minutes. You know the engagement you made for me in Quebec Saturday. I believe it is your will.'

"When he finished. I was going to pray, but he put his hand on my shoulder and told me not to pray. "First, you do not believe He will; and second. I believe He has. And there is no need whatever for you to pray about it.' I looked at him, and George Müller said.

"'Captain. I have known my Lord for forty-seven years, and there has never been a single day that I have failed to gain an audience with the King. Get up, captain, and open the door, and you will find the fog is gone.' I got up, and the fog was gone!

"You tell that to some people of a scientific turn of mind, and they will say, 'That is not according to natural laws.' No, it is according to spiritual laws. The God with whom we have to do is omnipotent. Hold on to God's omnipotence. Ask believingly. On Saturday afternoon, I may add, George Müller was there on time."

Herald of gospel liberty, Volume 102, Issues 27-52

Faith we have been talking through.

1. The Burden Faith - Complaints against
2. The Vision of The - Complaints against
3. The Prayer - Confidence in the Lord.

Four things of Faith.

Phrase – And the just shall live by faith.

- New Testament – used exclusively for saving faith.

The quotes in the New Testament come from Habakkuk.

- Talking about the one who trusts God as Lord and Savior and how that person lives that out.

Habakkuk 3:1-2 Christian Standard Bible

Habakkuk's Third Prayer

3 A prayer of the prophet Habakkuk. According to *Shigionoth*.^[a]

² LORD, I have heard the report about you;
LORD, I stand in awe of your deeds.
Revive your work in these years;
make it known in these years.
In your wrath remember mercy!

1 – Faith That Prays

3 A prayer of the prophet Habakkuk. According to *Shigionoth*.^[a]

Shigionoth –

- Can mean to air.
- Within the context of passage can also talk about praise and psalms
- Coupled with v19 – will become a psalm sung by the children of Israel

Habakkuk 3:19 Christian Standard Bible

¹⁹ The LORD my Lord is my strength;
he makes my feet like those of a deer
and enables me to walk on mountain heights!

For the choir director: on^[a] stringed instruments.

V1-2

The prophet has a faith that prays.

Habakkuk seeing injustice, abuse and unfaithfulness.

See people go back to their sinful ways.

- Habakkuk cries out to the Lord.

“How long are you going to put up with this and not do anything about it”?

For the past two chapters Habakkuk has been saying this to God.

- Raising up wicked people to rebuke – how is that right?

Habakkuk stands and waits for God's response to him.

- Habakkuk responds in prayer, and this is his prayer – humble prayer.

Question – How many times in trials and tribulations we try to do all that we can do and then finally we result in prayer – as a last resort!

Question - Does this display our attitude to prayer?

Habakkuk goes again, humbly in prayer.

Maybe this is his first response.

- Wait
- Went back in prayer.
- Response
- And know he returns in prayer.

Question – Do we have a faith that prays?

Habakkuk returns in prayer and petition.

Two Aspects.

It is really what Jesus said to the disciples.

Matthew 6:9-13 Christian Standard Bible

The Lord's Prayer

⁹“Therefore, you should pray like this:

Our Father in heaven,
your name be honored as holy.

¹⁰Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.^[a]

¹² And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And do not bring us into^[a] temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.^[a]

The Lord's Prayer.

In reverence of God – standing in awe of His awesome deeds – God's deeds.

Sometimes we can approach the Lord in a flippant way.

Question – Is that all that reverent?

- Are we thinking about who we are approaching in prayer?
- Do we have a holy fear of and stand in awe of Him?

We need to be humbly going before the Lord in prayer – in awe of a Holy God.

2. Requests In Prayer – There are actually 3.

Habakkuk wrestling with what is to come.

The Babylonians brought in as a conquering force to bring rebuke, judgement and discipline on the children of Israel.

- But he knows what is coming – he has been wrestling through it.
1. God revive your work in these years.
 - Do a work in Judah and the children of Israel.
 - Will you bring revival again?

If we go through trials and that God is absent in these times, He is not.

- He is working in so many ways.
- He is working in ways that are beyond our comprehension.

Question – Is our first request – Do a work in me, revive me, teach me what you want me to learn, strengthen my faith?

Or are we always asking for God to do things in the lives of others?

2. Make It Known in These Years.

Help us understanding what is happening – give us clarity God.

God is not obligated to let us know why we went through what we went through.

- As in the book of Job.

3. Remember Mercy.

Habakkuk remembering that God's wrath is going to be poured out.

- Please render mercy – compassion – tenderness.

Habakkuk – “Please God render compassion and mercy.

Prophet had a faith that prays – Do we have a faith that prays?

Point # 2 – He Had a Faith That Sees. (Verses 3-15)

What we do need to understand and be clear on is that this is a Theophany – meaning appearance or vision of God in great power and glory.

- This isn't uncommon for a prophet to have a Theophany

Isaiah Ch 6 – has this very thing.

He saw the Lord on his throne, high and lifted up, he saw God in a way that helped him understand the Holiness of God and his sinfulness before God, and the nations sinfulness before God.

Worthy angelic being beings – crying out – Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty.

Isaiah gets down on his knees and says... “I am a man who is undone, unworthy and of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips.”

Habakkuk has a vision of God in His great power and glory.

As we read through this in our English translations we may discover - Verb Tenses!

Because translators are looking at this and reading it through, they are looking at the Hebrew and translating it into English – trying to gain the context.

It can either be written in past or present tense because we are talking about prophetic language.

Things in this passage that pertain to both the past and the present.

- Things that the children of Israel have been through.
- Glimpses of God coming back in the future.

Many translators here talk about the prophetic present.

Habakkuk 3:3-4 Christian Standard Bible

³ God comes from Teman,
the Holy One from Mount Paran. *Selah*
His splendor covers the heavens,
and the earth is full of his praise.

⁴ His brilliance is like light;
rays are flashing from his hand.
This is where his power is hidden.

Psalm and song singing about the Lord and His Glory.

Teman – Eden

Paran – Mount Sion

Past event reflecting upon bringing them into the promised land.

[and the earth is full of his praise.](#)

Meaning - God's attributes are obvious and praiseworthy.

Psalm 139

Talking about the omniscience of God

- Go you know everything; you know all things.

Singing about the omnipresence of God.

- As a follower that should be an encouragement – not being able to escape God.

Psalm 139:13 Christian Standard Bible

[13 For it was you who created my inward parts;^{\[a\]}
you knit me together in my mother's womb.](#)

- The omnipotence of God – all powerful – creator – sustainer of all things.

Habakkuk 3:5 Christian Standard Bible

[5 Plague goes before him,
and pestilence follows in his steps.](#)

A reference back to God delivering the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt.

(Ten plagues that God brought on the Egyptians.)

Habakkuk 3:6 Christian Standard Bible

⁶ He stands and shakes^[a] the earth;
he looks and startles the nations.
The age-old mountains break apart;
the ancient hills sink down.
His pathways are ancient.

A reference back to the flood.

Habakkuk 3:7 Christian Standard Bible

⁷ I see the tents of Cushan^[a] in distress;
the tent curtains of the land of Midian tremble.

Nomadic roots as they see God doing a work.

Habakkuk 3:8 Christian Standard Bible

⁸ Are you angry at the rivers, LORD?
Is your wrath against the rivers?
Or is your fury against the sea
when you ride on your horses,
your victorious chariot?

This is Poetic language – we know that the Lord doesn't ride on a white horse with a chariot – but yet...

We know of a future event, of when the Lord is coming back, and he is going to be riding on a horse.

Habakkuk 3:9-10 Christian Standard Bible

⁹ You took the sheath from your bow;
the arrows are ready^[a] to be used with an oath.^[b] *Selah*
You split the earth with rivers.
¹⁰ The mountains see you and shudder;
a downpour of water sweeps by.

The deep roars with its voice
and lifts its waves^[a] high.

Reference Joshua Ch10

Habakkuk 3:11-15 Christian Standard Bible

¹¹ Sun and moon stand still in their lofty residence,
at the flash of your flying arrows,
at the brightness of your shining spear.

¹² You march across the earth with indignation;
you trample down the nations in wrath.

¹³ You come out to save your people,
to save your anointed.^[a]

You crush the leader of the house of the wicked
and strip him from foot^[b] to neck. *Selah*

¹⁴ You pierce his head
with his own spears;
his warriors storm out to scatter us,
gloating as if ready to secretly devour the weak.

¹⁵ You tread the sea with your horses,
stirring up the vast water.

What is the prophet talking about here?

Vision of the Lord and His majesty and His awesome power. He sees God for who He is.

Reminded of what God has done in the past to Protect – preserve and deliver the children of Israel.

- Because of this he knows that God who never changes – the same yesterday today and forever – who make a covenant with the nation of Israel – to say that

through you Abraham all of the nations of Israel will be blessed – that one day a deliverer will come – who will rescue the people from their sin.

Habakkuk, saying I know this God and have seen His majesty and know what he will do.

- He is an awe inspiring God who does what he needs to do – He fulfills his promises – He keeps his covenants.
- He sees God for who he truly is.

Question – For those of us who have given our lives to Christ, do we spend more time on our circumstances or more time focusing the God who is guiding us, leading us in the midst of those circumstances?

Point # 3 – Prophet Who Has a God Who Preserves.

[Habakkuk 3:16 Christian Standard Bible](#)

[Habakkuk's Confidence in God Expressed](#)

[16 I heard, and I trembled within;
my lips quivered at the sound.
Rottenness entered my bones;
I trembled where I stood.
Now I must quietly wait for the day of distress
to come against the people invading us.](#)

Biblical response to a biblical vision.

- A stark contrast to when he first started question God.
- Now reflecting on who God is

Verse 16 – Now I must wait.

[Habakkuk 3:17-18 Christian Standard Bible](#)

[17 Though the fig tree does not bud
and there is no fruit on the vines,
though the olive crop fails](#)

and the fields produce no food,
though the flocks disappear from the pen
and there are no herds in the stalls,
¹⁸ yet I will celebrate in the LORD;
I will rejoice in the God of my salvation!

If one single thing happened it might not be too much of a problem.

- But he lists of multiple things.
- The prophet saying this... "No matter how hard it gets".
- He is under no illusion of what is going to happen when the Babylonians come into town.

He says... No matter how bad it gets I am going to trust the Lord.

Reference to and appreciation of what Ken Barker says as he sums up this.

Habakkuk's circumstances haven't changed. It is important for us to understand this.

The outer world with its evil conduct still remains. The prophet however turns to praise, why?
He has heard God's voice and seen God's vision. He knows the ultimate outcome.

This is why he can say – No matter how bad it gets; I am going to trust God.

Thinking of the Apostle Paul.

2 Corinthians 11:16-33 Christian Standard Bible

Paul's Sufferings for Christ

¹⁶ I repeat: Let no one consider me a fool. But if you do, at least accept me as a fool so that I can also boast a little. ¹⁷ What I am saying in this matter^[a] of boasting, I don't speak as the Lord would, but as it were, foolishly. ¹⁸ Since many boast according to the flesh, I will also boast. ¹⁹ For you, being so wise, gladly put up with fools! ²⁰ In fact, you put up with it if someone enslaves you, if someone exploits you, if someone takes advantage of you, if someone is arrogant toward you, if someone slaps you in the face. ²¹ I say this to our shame: We have been too weak for that!

But in whatever anyone dares to boast—I am talking foolishly—I also dare: ²² Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the descendants of Abraham? So am I. ²³ Are they servants of Christ? I'm talking like a madman—I'm a better one: with far more labors, many more imprisonments, far worse beatings, many times near death.

²⁴ Five times I received the forty lashes minus one from the Jews. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked. I have spent a night and a day in the open sea. ²⁶ On frequent journeys, I faced dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my own people, dangers from Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers at sea, and dangers among false brothers; ²⁷ toil and hardship, many sleepless nights, hunger and thirst, often without food, cold, and without clothing. ²⁸ Not to mention^[b] other things, there is the daily pressure on me: my concern for all the churches. ²⁹ Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation?

³⁰ If boasting is necessary, I will boast about my weaknesses. ³¹ The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is blessed forever, knows I am not lying. ³² In Damascus, a ruler^[c] under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus in order to arrest me. ³³ So I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped from his hands.

- Danger – danger – danger.

Question – What was Paul saying?

I have continued to suffer hardship, after hardship, after hardship.

Because...

- My strength is in the Lord.
- I am going to depend upon the one who is my strength.
- I am going to trust Christ in all of this.

Total dependence on God.

Point # 4 – The Prophet Had a Faith That Praises.

Habakkuk 3:19 Christian Standard Bible

¹⁹ The LORD my Lord is my strength;
he makes my feet like those of a deer
and enables me to walk on mountain heights!

For the choir director: on^[a] stringed instruments.

Giving him a firm foundation.

- Offering praise due to the confidence he has in God.

Reference made to Paul and Silos in jail – found singing praises to God – even in the circumstances they found themselves in – there confidence is God.

Trusted the God of the universe.

- It is about the amount of our faith is about the object of our faith – Jesus Christ.

Question – Would be we be characterised by a person who has a faith that prays and a faith that sees God for who He really is?

We have the luxury of The Word of God in front of us to see what he done past, present and in the future.

By Faith, Not Sight - Ruth A. Morgan

By Faith Not Sight

Sometimes I'm sad, I know not why
My heart is sore distressed;
It seems the burdens of this world
Have settled on my heart.

And yet I know... I know that God
Who doeth all things right
Will lead me thus to understand
To walk by FAITH...not SIGHT.

And though I may not see the way
He's planned for me to go,
The way seems dark to me just
But oh, I'm sure He knows!

Today He guides my feeble step
Tomorrow's in His right...
He has asked me to never fear...
But walk by FAITH...not SIGHT.

Someday the mists will roll away,
The sun will shine again.
I'll see the beauty in the flowers,
I'll hear the bird's refrain,

And then I'll know my Father's hand
Has led the way to light
Because I placed my hand in His
And walked by FAITH...not SIGHT.

-Ruth A. Morgan

Christian – As Habakkuk said... - The righteous will by his faith.

Habakkuk 2:4 Christian Standard Bible

⁴Look, his ego is inflated;^[a]

he is without integrity.

But the righteous one will live by his faith.^[b]

Question – Are we living out our faith despite our circumstances.