

Habakkuk 3 Faith to Rejoice in God Study Guide

Introduction

Habakkuk didn't get the answer he wanted. An invasion by the Chaldeans?! How can it be? This chapter reveals a transformation in this prophet, from questioning God to being able to rejoice in faith, even when we don't like the answer.

Big Idea: Knowing God is greater than Knowing Ease.

1. My Request. Read Habakkuk 3:1-2

Notice how Habakkuk could have been requesting for God to change His mind and to protect Israel. Instead, he asks for the name of God to be known, to "revive it". Discuss our tendency to pray for ease, when perhaps we should be praying for the name of God to be known. How can this be helpful in light of current events?

2. My Remembrance. Read Habakkuk 3:3-15

Share your observations as you read about the splendor of God...

...he has given us light (v. 3-4)- What does that mean to you?

...he has worked powerfully to save us (v. 5-15- especially v. 13).

When looking into the future, how can it be helpful for you to remember how God has worked in the past? Discuss.

3. My Humanness. Read Habakkuk 3:16

Notice that rejoicing in faith is not the same as feeling giddy and laughing. We can be in physically and emotionally draining situations and still "*quietly wait*" for whatever may befall us. Share a time when you felt what Habakkuk was feeling and were still able to "quietly wait". What does that look like for you?

4. My Rejoicing. Read Habakkuk 3:17-19

Wow! Even though the stock market may crash, the value of my house go down by 75%, gas prices go to \$20 per gallon..."*yet I will rejoice.*" Notice in v. 18 & 19a the three-fold mention of God:

YHWH- God of Presence

ELOHIM- God of Power

ADONAI- God of Personal Engagement

Give an example of the idea that knowing God is greater than knowing a life of ease. Discuss.

Media Outline
Habakkuk 3:1-19

Habakkuk 2:4b: "...but the just shall live by faith."

Habakkuk- Living by Faith

1. Faith to Engage God (1:1-12)
2. Faith to Wait on God (1:13-2:20)
3. Faith to Rejoice in God (3:1-19)

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A. My Request (v.1-2)

A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, according to Shigionoth.

²O Lord, I have heard the report of you, and your work, O Lord, do I fear. In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy.

Daniel 4:1-3

"to all peoples, nations, languages that dwell in all the earth...His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation."

B. My Remembrance (v. 3-15)

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

His splendor covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise.

⁴His brightness was like the light; rays flashed from his hand; and there he veiled his power.

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Deuteronomy 33:2-3

"The Lord came from Sinai ... he shone forth from Mount Paran; ...Yes, he loved his people, ... so they followed in your steps, receiving direction from you,

B. My Remembrance (v. 3-15 *continued*)

⁵Before him went pestilence, and plague followed at his heels.

⁶He stood and measured the earth; he looked and shook the nations; then the eternal mountains were scattered; the everlasting hills sank low. His were the everlasting ways.

B. My Remembrance (v. 3-15 *continued*)

⁷I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction; the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble.

⁸ Was your wrath against the rivers, O Lord? Was your anger against the rivers, or your indignation against the sea, when you rode on your horses, on your chariot of salvation?

B. My Remembrance (v. 3-15 *continued*)

⁹ You stripped the sheath from your bow, calling for many arrows. *Selah*

You split the earth with rivers. ¹⁰ The mountains saw you and writhed; the raging waters swept on; the deep gave forth its voice; it lifted its hands on high.

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Genesis 6:11 "...on that day...all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened..."

B. My Remembrance (v. 3-15 *continued*)

¹¹ The sun and moon stood still in their place at the light of your arrows as they sped, at the flash of your glittering spear. ¹² You marched through the earth in fury; you threshed the nations in anger. ¹³ You went out for the salvation of your people, for the salvation of your anointed. You crushed the head of the house of the wicked, laying him bare from thigh to neck. *Selah*

¹⁴ You pierced with his own arrows the heads of his warriors, who came like a whirlwind to scatter me, rejoicing as if to devour the poor in secret.

¹⁵ You trampled the sea with your horses, the surging of mighty waters.

Rev. 16:18-20

¹⁸ And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake. ¹⁹ The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath. ²⁰ And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found.

Remembering God's Purpose!

¹³ You went out for the salvation of your people, for the salvation of your anointed.

Revelation 14:6-7

Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷ And he said with a loud voice, "*Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.*"

Big Idea: Knowing God > Knowing Ease.

C. My Humanness (v. 16)

¹⁶ I hear, and my body trembles; my lips quiver at the sound; rottenness enters into my bones; my legs tremble beneath me. Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble to come upon people who invade us.

D. My Rejoicing (v. 17-19)

¹⁷ Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, ¹⁸ yet I will rejoice...

D. My Rejoicing (v. 17-19 *continued*)

¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the Lord (YHWH); I will take joy in the God (Elohim) of my salvation. ¹⁹ God (YHWH), the Lord (Adonai), is my strength;

YHWH- God of Presence

ELOHIM- God of Power

ADONAI- God of Personal Engagement

D. My Rejoicing (v. 17-19 *continued*)

¹⁹ God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places.

To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments.

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