

A REVIVAL OF THE WORK OF GOD A SOLID WORD IN SHAKY TIMES

Habakkuk 3:1-2 ¶ A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet upon Shigionoth. **2** O LORD, I have heard thy speech, *and* was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.

Perhaps the greatest expression of undaunted faith ever penned came from the Old Testament spokesman, Habakkuk. Most prophets spoke to the people for God. Habakkuk spoke to God for the people. He lived in times that were hard on faith. He saw the righteous suffering and the wicked prospering. He asked God the two questions we often ask: "Why?" and "How long?" Why are these things happening? How long will it be before they are rectified?

God revealed to Habakkuk that the Babylonians, the epitome of everything Habakkuk (and God for that matter) detested, would become God's instrument of judgment on Judah. Habakkuk did not understand. He could not explain it. For a time, evil would win over righteousness and bad things would happen to good people. God's hand would not move. His face would not be seen. Yet throughout this time of punishment, God reminded Habakkuk of correct living: "The righteous will live by his faith" (Hab. 2:4).

Habakkuk realized that though he did not understand God's ways or timing, he could not doubt God's wisdom, love, or reliability. Then Habakkuk wrote his great affirmation of faith.

"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 there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will triumph in the Lord; I will rejoice in the God of my salvation!" (Hab. 3:17-19).

THE PROPHET'S PLEADING WITH GOD— A WORD WITH GOD

Habakkuk 1:2-4 O LORD, **how long shall I cry**, and thou wilt not hear! *even* cry out unto thee *of* violence, and thou wilt not save! **3** Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause *me* to behold grievance? for spoiling and violence *are* before me: and there are *that* raise up strife and contention. **4** Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.

A PERSISTENT CRY "how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear!"

A PETITIONARY CRY "*even* cry out unto thee *of* violence, and thou wilt not save!"

petitionary - of the nature of or expressing a petition; "the petitionary procedure had a quality of indecisiveness [beseeching](#), [imploring](#), [pleading](#) – begging

A PAINFUL CRY "Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause *me* to behold grievance?"

4 Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.

PULPIT COMMENTARY

Therefore. Because the righteous are unable to act as they desire, being opposed by the wicked.

Wrong judgment proceedeth; rather, *judgment goeth forth perverted*. Right, or what is so called, when it does come forth, is distorted, wrested, so as to be right no more.

THE REPLY OF GOD——A WORD FROM GOD

Habakkuk 1:5-11 ¶ Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvellously: for *I* will work a work in your days, *which* ye will not believe, though it be told *you*. **6** For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, *that* bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwelling places *that are* not theirs. **7** They *are* terrible and dreadful: their judgment and their dignity shall proceed of themselves. **8** Their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves: and their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from far; they shall fly as the eagle *that* hasteth to eat. **9** They shall come all for violence: their faces shall sup up *as* the east wind, and they shall gather the captivity as the sand. **10** And they shall scoff at the kings, and the princes shall be a scorn unto them: they shall deride every strong hold; for they shall heap dust, and take it. **11** Then shall *his* mind change, and he shall pass over, and offend, *imputing* this his power unto his god.

God's Work! "I will work a work in your days, *which* ye will not believe"

An Unbelievable Work 5

An Undesirable Work 6-9

An Unexpected Work

God's Witness! **6** For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, *that* bitter and hasty nation,

A Wicked Nation "they shall fly as the eagle *that* hasteth to eat."

"**7** They *are* terrible and dreadful:"

"**8** Their horses also are swifter than the leopards"

"**9** They shall come all for violence:"

"**10** And they shall scoff at the kings,"

A call to prayer—I cannot sleep.
A midnight vigil I must keep,
For God doth speak. And I repeat
To prayer, to prayer, to prevailing prayer!
The need for such is everywhere

It covers earth, it fills the air.
The urgent need of urgent prayer.
To bended knee, to bended knee!
God's call to you, God's call to me,
Because what is, and is to be
Shall reach throughout eternity.

Oh, folks! I say, again I say.
A truth has been borne to my heart today!
It's the need of prayer. Let come what may.
We shall overcome if we watch and pray.

Awake, awake! Ye saints, awake!
Your place in prayer, believe and take.
Stand in the breach, for Jesus' sake
If the world be lost, and our nation be lost
And our soul be lost for Jesus' sake!

Habakkuk 2:1-4 ¶ I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved. **2** And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make *it* plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. **3** For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. **4** Behold, his soul *which* is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

THE RESPONSE OF THE PROPHET—————A WORD FOR GOD

Habakkuk 3:1-2 ¶ A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet upon Shigionoth. **2** O LORD, I have heard thy speech, *and* was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.

O LORD, REVIVE THY WORK IN THE MIDST OF THE YEARS.

THE WORD IS FOR GOD “O LORD”

THE WORK IS FROM GOD “REVIVE THY WORK”

THE WAIT IS ON GOD “IN THE MIDST OF THE YEARS”