

Disaster! But I'll Rejoice

Habakkuk 3:16-18

Read the three chapters

- **His name may mean “embrace or caress.”**
- **Was a prophet living in Jerusalem while the Northern Kingdom was exiled in Assyria.**
- **Was a cult prophet, meaning he was maybe a Levite who served the priests in the temple and who spoke this prophetic lament/vision as revealed by YHWH.**
- **Served about 625-575BC.**
- **Was a contemporary of the prophets Jeremiah, Zephaniah, Nahum and maybe Joel.**

The Wicked

- **1:1-4** Speak of the wicked leaders of Judah. Note his lament of how he had to endure them while being a prophet of Judah and serving in the Temple. The leaders ignored the law and abused their power by not delivering justice to the oppressed, so their “justice comes out perverted.”
- **1:13** Speaks of the wicked as being the Chaldeans/Babylonians who were coming soon to devastate Judah. See back to verse 6.
- **So Habakkuk was surrounded by wickedness in Israel, and Babylon to come! What would your attitude be?**

A Watchman

- **2:1 is the reason why some theologians call Habakkuk a Watchman. Watchmen are lookouts on the wall of the city and call out when they see danger. A prophet watchman does that spiritually. They call out danger when the Lord reveals the future to them.**
- **2:2 the Lord answers his prayer and tells him to record the vision on tablets, so that His word will be preserved for future generations. When they read His word, (vs 3) they will realize they were acting wickedly and have no excuse for being taken captive.**

A permanent concept

- **2:4b reveals a permanent concept that our Lord intended for mankind from Adam to Abraham to Jesus, to Paul and to us today. "the righteous will live by his faith."**
- **Paul quotes this in Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, and the concept is found in Hebrews 10:38.**
- **Ephesians 2:8-10 brings this to full light.**

Final point is encouraging!

- **So, living under a life of wickedness in Israel and the coming forces of Babylon, what does Habakkuk do? Panic? Commit suicide? Become seriously depressed? Say, "Well, let's just get through it the best we can?"**
- **NO! Reread 3:16-19.**
- **Verse 16 trembled, quivered. "I must wait quietly!"**
- **Verse 17 Prosperity fails? What then?**
- **Verse 18 "I will exult in the Lord and rejoice!"**
- **Verse 19 "God is my strength"**
- **This is to be our reaction in the face of today's covid19!!!!**