

Our Faithful God

Habakkuk 3:16-19

The last section of this chapter contains some of the most moving verse in all the Bible. On one occasion it was used by Benjamin Franklin, who was not a Christian, to confound some of the sophisticated, cultured despisers of the Bible whom he met in Paris when he was serving as United States Plenipotentiary to that country. The skeptics were mocking him for his admiration of the Bible. So he decided to find out how well they knew the book they professed to scorn. One evening he entered their company with a manuscript that contained an ancient poem he said he had been reading. He said that he had been impressed with its stately beauty. They asked to hear it. He held it out and read this great third chapter of Habakkuk ending with: Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes 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 rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior. The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights. Verses 17-19

The reading was received with exclamations of extravagant admiration. 'What a magnificent piece of verse!' they cried. Where had Franklin found it? How could they get copies? They were astonished when he informed them that it was the third chapter of Habakkuk's prophecy.

What is it that makes this chapter, and particularly the final verses, so forceful? In my judgment it is the courageous way in which Habakkuk embraces all the calamities he can imagine and nevertheless triumphs over them in the knowledge and love of his Savior." Boice

- I. Fear is a natural response of the flesh when we face scary circumstances that could potentially harm us. We live in a fallen world full of uncertainty, and there are no guarantees that we won't suffer from its effect on us spiritually, emotionally and physically. It is not showing a lack of faith to be scared in the midst of uncertainty. It's where we go with it, where we turn, what we do with it that speaks volumes of our trust in Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Hab. 3:16

1 Cor. 2:2-5


Ps. 46:1-3

- II. Habakkuk's fear didn't consume him, because when he made the choice to turn to God his Savior, he found that the Lord's perfect love cast his fear away. His circumstances didn't change, and the uncertainty to what would happen to him, his loved ones and the nation of Israel still concerned him, yet he choose to put his absolute trust in God. He realized that his light and momentary troubles were achieving for him an eternal glory that far outweighed them all. So he fixed his eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal (**2 Cor. 4:16-18**).

Hab. 3:17-18

Rom. 8:38-39

2 Cor. 4:7-10

 **giyl**, gheel; ... a primitive root; properly, to spin round (under the influence of any violent emotion), i.e. usually rejoice, or (as cringing) fear:—be glad, joy, be joyful, rejoice.

1 Jn. 4:18 *There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives our fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.*

“Habakkuk didn't just practice positive thinking and shut out the idea of the barren fig tree and the empty cattle stalls. Instead, he saw those problems for what they were and remembered that God was greater than them all.” Guzik

- III. Habakkuk speaks of the sure footedness and confidence that comes from trusting God. He knows that his strength to endure life and its many challenges comes from God alone.

Hab. 3:19

Psalm 18:31-33 ³¹For who is God besides the LORD? And who is the Rock except our God? ³²It is God who arms me with strength and keeps my way secure.³³ He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he causes me to stand on the heights.