

Right Thinking

Habakkuk 3:1 -15

The book of Habakkuk starts out with a complaint against God about his perceived unresponsiveness to prayer. He accused him of not listening nor caring that his covenant people were steeped in sin. He didn't like having to deal with the effect it was having on himself and the nation of Israel. Habakkuk's heart was in the right place, but his understanding of the sovereignty of God and how he works to fulfill his good, pleasing and perfect will needed to come into alignment with how the Lord thinks and acts. He learned that God does answer prayer, but on his timetable and according to his terms. He closes the book with a totally different attitude toward the problems he was facing. His prayer is a prayer that comes from having a deep appreciation of knowing God and trusting that he will what's best.

- I. Habakkuk's prayer shows us that understanding the character of God has a direct influence on how we approach him in prayer. God taught his prophet some valuable lessons about his justice, omniscience, omnipotence, and sovereignty. He showed him that his answer to prayer is not always contingent upon our wishes or desires, but on what is best whether we understand it or not.

Hab. 3:1-2

- A. Habakkuk's reverence and adoration for God deepened when he came to accept God's way of doing things over how he thought he should do things. He was no longer demanding, accusatory or angry. Instead, he trustingly took his eyes off himself and his circumstances and put them on the author and perfecter of his faith knowing that God is righteous in all he says and does.

Heb. 12:1-3

Deuteronomy 32:3-4 ³I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! ⁴He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.

- B. Habakkuk's petition before God changed as he came to understand that God will not and cannot act outside of his unchanging nature. He learned that God is not only a merciful God, but also a just God who must righteously deal with sin. Instead of asking God to spare his people, he asked that he revive a right spirit in them so that they would come to reverence and adore him and have joy in their salvation (**Ps. 51:10-12**).

"Revival refers to a spiritual reawakening from a state of dormancy or stagnation in the life of a believer. It encompasses the resurfacing of a life for God, an appreciation of God's holiness, a passion for His Word and His church, a convicting awareness of personal and corporate sin, a spirit of humility, and a desire for repentance and growth in righteousness." gotquestions.org

Psalm 103:13-14 ¹³As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; ¹⁴for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

- II. Habakkuk approached God's throne of grace with confidence because he knew, beyond a doubt, that God is true to his word and keeps his promises. His faith was not based on ideas or wishful thinking, but on the indisputable evidence of how God has worked throughout redemptive history.

Hab. 3:3-15

"Habakkuk is not just comforting himself by playing with ideas; he is speaking of the things that God has actually done. The Christian faith is solidly based on facts, not ideas. And if the facts recorded in the Bible are not true, then I have no hope and no comfort. For we are not saved by ideas; but by facts, by events. The Christian faith differs from all other religions in that its doctrines are based upon facts." Martyn Lloyd Jones