

Habakkuk's Prayer

Read Habakkuk 3

Habakkuk had been deeply troubled when he learned that his nation would be severely punished by God, using a nation even more brutal and sinful than itself. He boldly brought his concerns to God, expecting a rebuke. Instead, God gave him a vision of the future that brought him comfort and reassurance. In the face of injustice that seemed overwhelming, God was indeed God, and justice would surely come.

Habakkuk now responds to God with a beautiful prayer of submission. He realizes how awesome is God's work, and he leaves God's work in God's hands, to happen in God's time. As he thinks forward to the inevitable coming of the Babylonians with all their terrible destruction, he simply asks God, *"In wrath remember mercy"* (3:2b, NASB).

Then the prophet looks beyond the coming of the Babylonians and records an inspired vision of the Day of the Lord, when God comes to deliver His people (3:3-15). The Almighty Creator rises up in all His magnificence and arrives to save His people.

*His splendor covers the heaven...
His radiance is like the sunlight...
The mountains saw You and quaked...
Sun and moon stood in their places...
In indignation You marched through the earth;
In anger You trampled the nations.
You went forth for the salvation of Your people...
You struck the head of the house of the evil
To lay him open from thigh to neck."* (3:3-4, 10-13, NASB)

After this majestic vision of our delivering God, Habakkuk settles back to *"wait quietly for the day of distress, for the people to arise who will invade us"* (3:16, NASB). Having conversed honestly with God and having seen Him in His magnificence, he faces the awful days ahead with this humble trust:

*"Though the fig tree should not blossom
And there be no fruit on the vines,
Though the yield of the olive should fail
And the fields produce no food,
Though the flock should be cut off from the fold
And there be no cattle in the stalls,
Yet I will exult in the Lord,
I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.
The Lord God is my strength,
And He has made my feet like hinds' feet,
And makes me walk on my high places."* (3:17-19, NASB)

By trusting our sovereign God, we can live in the same peace in every circumstance.

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