

The Prophet Considers Lecture 11

Habakkuk 3:3-15

Introduction:

The Prophet Habakkuk goes from praying to _____.

What two things does the prophet consider?

- 1- _____
- 2- _____

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits" (Ps. 103:2).

In what three areas does God not change?

- 1-
- 2-
- 3-

What Old Testament book is devoted almost entirely to the glory and greatness of God? _____

When you remember the mighty acts of God, you will be _____. Let's do that now as we consider Habakkuk 3:3-15. This section is inspired _____. It's really a hymn of praise to the greatness of God in history.

Some people don't like poetry, and therefore they have a problem when they read a passage such as this in the Bible. Some truths have to be pictured. They are not explained, they are not spelled out to us in detail; instead, they are given to us in symbols.

God can say some things to us better through picture language, such as poetry, than in any other way.

This hymn of praise has three stanzas.

In verses 3-5 he said, "God came."

In verses 6 and 7, "God _____."

In verses 8-15, "God marched."

I. God Came

Stanza one says that God came (Hab. 3:3-5).

Habakkuk started with a lesson on geography, and he takes us to that area in the south where the Jewish people had gone during their exodus and near Mount Sinai where God gave the Law.

Parallel verses are Deuteronomy 33:2,3.

A. The Holiness of God

The first emphasis is on the holiness of God: "*The Holy One from Mount Paran*" (Hab. 3:3). This is an important truth in the Book of Habakkuk. Habakkuk himself said in 1:12: "*Art thou not from everlasting, O Lord, my God, mine Holy One?*"

Look at verse 13: "*Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look [with approval] on iniquity.*"

Whatever God does is _____ because God is holy. God came in holiness.

B. The Glory of God

God came in glory. "*His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise*" (Hab. 3:3). This reminds us of 2:14: "*For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.*"

C. Heard the praises of God

He also heard the praise of God: "*The earth was full of his praise*" (3:3).

Even when men and women don't praise God, God's _____ will always praise Him. "*The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handiwork*" (Ps. 19:1).

D. The Power of God

The power of God is also revealed here. "*And his brightness was like the light*" (Hab. 3:4). His brightness was like the splendor of the sunrise, which is beautiful. "*He had horns [rays] coming out of his hand*" (v. 4). It was as though lightning were flashing out from the hand of God. "*And there was the hiding of his power*" (v. 4).

God said, "Don't be afraid, I have My power. It's right here in My hand."

"*Before him went the pestilence [plague]*" (v. 5). This reminds us of the time when God went through the land of _____.

"*And burning coals [lightning] went forth at his feet*" (v. 5). This is a marvelous, poetic picture of God's coming in His _____ and _____!

His coming is like the splendor of the sunrise. His hands have rays of glory coming from them. Lightning flashes at His feet. What a marvelous picture!

There is nothing wrong with looking at geography and remembering God.

When a Jew thought of Mount Sinai, he thought of _____ and the _____ of God. We think of Calvary and the _____.

There are some places in this world where you and I can go, and we are reminded of the blessing that God brought to us there. We don't worship the location, but we glorify the God who met us there.

God came to us in Jesus Christ. "*The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us*" (John 1:14). When God came to us in Jesus Christ, He revealed His grace and His glory, and by trusting Christ we can be saved.

II. God Stood

In Habakkuk 3:6,7 is the second stanza of Habakkuk's prayer—God stood. God stood! God is unafraid.

When God measures the nations, He is measuring for _____.

The prophet was remembering when Israel marched out of Egypt and went through the wilderness and then entered the land of Canaan. When Israel marched, the other nations trembled because God's people were coming.

III. God Marched

Then God marched (Hab. 3:8-15). We see God on the move. "*Thou didst march through the land in indignation; thou didst thresh the nations in anger*" (v. 12). God was on the march, and nothing could stop Him. See v.8.

When Israel got to the Jordan River, the Jordan _____ for them. God marched ahead and opened up the way. God can do that for you.

When the child of God is in the will of God, he can expect God to open the way for him. "*Thy bow was made quite naked [He uncovered His weapons], according to the oaths of the tribes, even thy word*" (v. 9). God called for many arrows to be shot.

"*Thou didst cleave the earth with rivers*" (v. 9). He knew where the water was. "*The mountains saw thee, and they trembled; the overflowing of the water passed by; the deep uttered its voice, and lifted up its hands on high*" (v. 10).

Time after time God used the rain or the water to _____ His purposes. "*The sun and moon stood still in their habitation*" (v.11).

This reminds us of Joshua 10. "*At the light of thine arrows they went, and at the shining of thy glittering spear*" (Hab. 3:11).

God's armies, as they moved forth, shot their arrows and threw their spears, and they were like lightning. "*Thou didst march through the land in indignation*" (v. 12).

Now we have the people of Israel conquering Canaan. "*Thou didst thresh the nations in anger*" (v. 12).

Patiently God had waited for these heathen nations to repent, and they refused to. Now the time of judgment had come. *"Thou wentest forth for the salvation of thy people, even for salvation with thine anointed"* (v. 13).

God's anointed people were experiencing the salvation of God, and the Lord brought about that salvation.

Habakkuk saw, in verses 13-15, the conquest of Babylon. *"Thou woundedst the head out of the house of the wicked, by laying bare the foundation unto the neck"* (v. 13). The great people of Babylon who were sweeping through the land, laying everything bare, stripping the forest, killing the animals, wiping out the towns and villages—one day they would be stripped from head to foot.

"Thou didst strike through with his own staves the head of his villages; they came out like a whirlwind to scatter me; their rejoicing was as if to devour the poor secretly" (v. 14). But instead it was God who devoured them.

This is a marvelous hymn as Habakkuk pondered the greatness and the glory of God. There is going to be a time when God is going to come in judgment. The tragedy is that most people aren't prepared for God to come in judgment. You'll notice that when he finished pondering the greatness of God, the prophet had a twofold response. What are they?

1- _____ --*"When I heard, my belly trembled"* (v. 16). *"My lips quivered at the voice; rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself"* (v. 16).

2- _____

He praised God and affirmed his confidence in God, come what may! Just trust Him. And one day you will say, *"I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation"* (v. 18)."