

“Why God?” (Habakkuk 3:1-19)

For the week of April 9, 2017

Background

In chapter one Habakkuk was low. He was upset because of the evil around him. In chapter two he goes up to the watchtower to wait for the second answer. Now, in the final chapter of this wonderful little book, we see him praising God, which is highlighted by the phrase “he makes me tread (walk) on my high places.” The book of Habakkuk is a steady progression upwards towards God.

Opening

This prayer is stylized like many of the Psalms. The overall context of the passage calls for God to fulfill His promises on behalf of His people. The key point of this passage is the following: **We can trust God and hope in Him though our present circumstances tell us otherwise.**

Describe one example in your life when you trusted in God although you were facing difficult circumstances.

Read Habakkuk 3: 1-15

What words and phrases in this passage help you picture God's majesty and power?

Verse 2 relays how Habakkuk was in awe of God. Describe a time when you, like Habakkuk, stood in awe of God.

Verse 3 refers to God's wrath and mercy. Do you believe that God is better known today in our culture for His wrath or His mercy? Explain your answer.

What details in verses 3-7 remind you of events in world history and biblical history?

The words “wrath,” “anger,” and “angry” appear five times in this passage. How should we respond to God's anger as it is described in this passage?

Read Habakkuk 3:16-19

What impresses you about these verses? As this book ends, how would you describe Habakkuk's spiritual health?

How do you explain Habakkuk's ability to wait patiently (v. 16) for calamity while being so frightened?

Why might an awe of God's great terrifying power help us to trust Him? Is it difficult to trust in God? Why? How would you disciple someone who is having difficulty trusting God?

In what did Habakkuk rejoice? Why? Describe the strength Habakkuk sensed from God.

What can you say about hope to someone who says that you or the world has no reason to hope?

Summary of Key Points of Habakkuk

Below are listed the key points from the book of Habakkuk. Which of these points were most impactful to you? Why? Discuss in your group.

- God uses unlikely means to accomplish His purposes.
- Though God's ways at times don't make sense, we must trust that God knows what He is doing.
- God's purposes will ultimately be accomplished, no matter how bad things seem.
- We can trust God and hope in Him though our present circumstances tell us otherwise.

Pray

Pray for final preparations for our Easter weekend and for hearts to be prepared to hear the gospel message and respond. Pray that the entire weekend (April 14-16) gives God glory.