

Revive Thy Work

Habakkuk chapter 3

Does prayer really change things? Some speak thus as if God sits around waiting on our last wish to go into action. Others think that whatever will be will be, so why bother praying? Because God commanded us to pray for starters. It is through prayer that we develop a vital relationship with God. Prayer should not be to change God but rather submitting to God who changes things. Prayer changes us by bringing us into conformity to His will, and once yielded to His purpose our prayers become part of the dynamic involving Him to use us to accomplish His will.

Chapter 3 Habakkuk's Prayer

1. Revive your work (Vs.1,2).
2. Review *God's Mighty Power in the Past* (Vs.3-15).
3. Rest by faith in God's power (Vs.16-19).

God's Word

- How could God stand by while evil fills the land? (Vs.1:1-4)
- How could a holy God allow evil men to prosper? (Vs. 1:5-6)
- Habakkuk waited patiently God's answer (V.2:1).
- God's answer (Vs.2:5-19)

God's Work

- We often hear "revive your work" as a slogan to promote a revival meeting (V. 3:2).
- The "work" was the one God had just described in chapter 2; Judgment on Judah. Habakkuk had asked God in chapter 1 why He was not judging injustice and evil? (Vs.1:2-6)
- **God's work is to reveal Himself** to sinners and straying children "in the midst," He asked God to "make known."

God's Wonders

- From Sinai to Solomon's Temple the Shekinah glory of God appeared as light and fire.
- In Delivering Israel (v v,2,3) Teman - In Edom, Paran – In Sinai.
- The awesome shekinah glory of God on Sinai "glory covered the heavens", "brightness of light" – "horns ...out of his hand" (Ex. 33:18-23)
- Moses hid in the cleft "burning coals" – Ex. 24:17
- Revelation begins with John seeing such glory. (Rev. 1:13-16)
- When Messiah "God's anointed" (Dan. 2:44-45) comes the whole earth will be filled with this glory. (V.2:14)
- God showed His glory in the Red Sea and the Jordan river. (vv,3:8,9)
- He showed His power when the sun stood still for Joshua. (V. 3:11), (Josh. 10:12-14)
- God is predicted here as using the one he later used to deliver them from Babylon – Persian King Cyrus. (Jer. 51) Babylon's mighty walls were laid in ruins.

- Likewise Israel's future scourge Russia will be destroyed on the mountains of Israel. (Ezek. 38)
- God's anointed will deliver Israel at Armageddon. (Rev. 19:11)

Our Response

- Habakkuk pleaded to God's tender feelings (*rahem* – Hebrew for deep inner feeling) "remember mercy" while He was issuing judgment (V.3:2).
- Jeremiah was there to see the full blow of wrath and the aftermath in Jerusalem. "My soul hath *them* still in remembrance, and is humbled in me. This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. *It is of* the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. *They are* new every morning: great *is* thy faithfulness. The LORD *is* my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The LORD *is* good unto them that wait for him, to the soul *that* seeketh him. *It is* good that *a man* should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD. " (Lamentations 3"20-26).

Great is Thy Faithfulness by Thomas O. Chisholm is based on these verses.

"Great is Thy faithfulness," O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!

<http://www.hymnal.net/hymn.php/h/19#ixzz2PRHXwThB>

- Habakkuk found rest in the midst of destruction (V. 3:16)
- Habakkuk found joy in spite of judgment (V. 3:18)
- Habakkuk found strength in times of stress (V. 3:19)
- Habakkuk found that faith gave him patience to wait in rest, joy and strength. (V. 2:3,4)
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Romans 8:28,29 tells us that all things good or bad will be used for our good and His glory. Through the crucible of God's judgment our faith is purified to fine gold. 1Pet. 1:7 "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ"

Excerpts and outline from "When prophets speak of Judgment" by Dr. David Levy Chapters 6,7