

Habakkuk 2:5-3:19**2-6-03***“Yet I will rejoice!!”***1. Intro:**

1.1.

2. 5 Woes! (ch.2:5-20)

2.1. **5 woes!** – Babylon would be used by God to spank Judah...but they also would be spanked for how they did it.

2.2. **Ambition!** (6-8)

2.2.1. Ambition can be a **good thing**, **but** when it motivates you to be greedy, selfish, & abusive...it is a very **bad thing**.

2.2.2. The Babylonians were consumed by selfish ambition. They stopped at nothing to acquire wealth & expand their kingdom.

2.2.3. The Medes & Persians ended up fulfilling this prophecy(7,8).

2.3. **Covetousness!** (9-11)

2.3.1. Security...but it was a false security!

2.3.1.1. **Q:** How high do you have to build walls to keep God out?

2.4. **Exploiting People!** (12-14)

2.4.1. Built by slave labor, prisoners of war, etc.

2.4.2. This was only fueling Gods fire against them.

2.4.3. (14) Contrast Babylon’s shame & infamy to **Gods glory!**

2.4.3.1. And there relatively short “glory” compared to God’s eternal glory!

2.5. **Drunkenness!** (15-17)

2.5.1. Can interpret individual & national.

2.6. **Idolatry!** (18-20)

2.6.1. **Of what value is a god made by a man?**

2.6.1.1. Idols are a dead substitute for the living God!

- 2.6.2. **Q:** What are you **devoted to** other than God? What do you **delight in** other than God? What couldn't you **bear to be w/o**?
- 2.6.3. **Keep silence** - "Having learned to make the joyful noise, let us also practice the blessed quiet!" (Paul Anderson in Leadership, Vol. 7, no. 2.)

3. **A Prayer Hymn! (ch.3:1-19)**

- 3.1. **A Prayer Hymn! (1-2)**
- 3.1.1. **A prayer(1a); a hymn for 3 reasons!**
- 3.1.1.1. [1] **Shigionoth** – (?) a musical term or notation.
- 3.1.1.2. [2] **Selah** – 3 times, pause.
- 3.1.1.3. [3] **Subscription** – (see 3:19b)
- 3.2. **When your mind is wandering; the situations is crumbling; your head is spinning;...keep your heart trusting!**
- 3.2.1. (1) **Though this is not a manual on prayer we can learn a lot from Habakkuk on how to pray!**
- 3.2.1.1. [1] Like having a healthy perspective on who God is.
- 3.2.1.2. [2] Remembering back on how God has worked in history(i.e. know the Word)
- 3.2.1.3. [3] This takes self-centeredness out of prayer.
- 3.2.1.4. [4] The better we know Him the better we'll want what He wants.
- 3.2.1.5. [5] "When God is our focus, our struggles become, not isolated islands of pain, but paths toward Him!" (Swindoll)
- 3.2.2. **Wiersbe defined prayer as, "reminding God of His promises & claiming them for ourselves."**
- 3.2.3. (2) **Habakkuk asked "why aren't you working God"? – God responded "I am". – Now Habakkuk responds "ok your working...please be merciful to your sinful people"!**
- 3.3. **The Greatness of God! (3-15)**
- 3.3.1. **Oh we need a return to this kind of worship...that focuses on His **Glory & Greatness!****
- 3.3.2. **In this he seems to be tracing the foot steps from **Sinai** to the **promise land**.**

- 3.4. **Hymn!** (16-19)
- 3.5. Here is one of the greatest confessions of faith.
- 3.5.1. Though Babylon comes to destroy; though You send away your people; though the bottom drops out of everything...**yet I will trust in you!!!**
- 3.5.2. Had he **looked ahead** he would only see the invading Babylonian army; Had he **looked within** he would only see fear & trembling; If he **looked around** he would only see everything falling apart; But by **looking up** by faith he saw God...& all his fears vanished.
- 3.5.3. **To walk by faith means to focus on the greatness & glory of God!**
- 3.5.4. "I'm only in the kindergarten of suffering," W.E.Sangster
- 3.5.5. **That I might rest...** - (NIV) "Yet I will **wait patiently** for..."
- 3.5.5.1. **3 verses to help you wait patiently on Him to work!**
- 3.5.5.2. [1] **Stand Still** (Ex.14:13)
- 3.5.5.3. [2] **Sit Still** (Ruth 3:18)
- 3.5.5.4. [3] **Be Still** (Ps.46:10)
- 3.5.5.5. When things are stirred up within you...**stop, pray, wait... before we do something stupid!**
- 3.5.6. (17) By the time Babylon was done w/Judah there wouldn't be much of value left.
- 3.5.6.1. Even when we cannot rejoice in the **economy**, we can rejoice in the **Lord!**
- 3.5.6.2. Seems like little to sing about yet...!
- 3.5.7. (18) **But God was still on the throne!**
- 3.5.7.1. This is no "*whistle in the dark*" to build up our courage.
- 3.5.7.1.1. Ever do that when you're scared?
- 3.5.7.2. **No this is singing about the Eternal God who Never Fails!**
- 3.5.7.3. **Faith always lifts us higher & makes us happier!** (see 18 &19)
- 3.5.7.4. Habakkuk couldn't rejoice in the **circumstances**, but he could rejoice in his **God!**
- 3.5.7.4.1. How else could we really "**Glory in our tribulations?**"

3.5.7.5. 1 Thes. 5:16-18(NIV) “Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”

3.5.7.6. Q: Can you worship Him no matter how you **feel** or what you **see**?

3.5.8. (19) We started in the **valley**(of despair,ch.1). - We moved to the **watchtower** in ch.2. – And here we end up on the **mountain top**.

3.5.9. God became Habakkuk's **Strength, Song, & his Salvation!**

3.5.10. If my legs were shaking, I probably would be looking for a place to sit down...not bounding up the side of a mountain, like a deer!

3.5.10.1. The Lord gives us “bounding feet” so we can overcome the obstacles of life.

*3.5.10.2. God doesn't always **change the circumstances**, but He can **change us to meet the circumstances!***

3.5.10.3. **Faith** gives you the ability to stand **sure-footed** like a deer, & to be able to **run-swiftly** & go higher then ever before!

3.5.11. Like the eagle & like the deer, God made us for the heights!

3.5.11.1. They both will go down into the valley but that's not where they live! (us too!)

3.6. **Communion:**

3.6.1. A thought to ponder: “God doesn't reveal Himself to **superficial saints** who are only looking for a new experience they can brag about, **or** to curious Christians who want to **sample** deeper fellowship w/God but not at too great a price.” (www)

3.6.1.1. Is.66:2 “But on this one will I look: On him who is **poor** and of a **contrite spirit**, And who **trembles** at My word.”