

Habakkuk 1-3

Good evening, Church... thank you for coming out tonight.

We are making our way through the Old Testament... we are on the home stretch here.

Please turn in your Bibles to the Prophet Habakkuk's writings.

When our daughter Sofia was a newborn, she spit up, and she seemed to be choking, her face turned red... She looked like she was gasping for air...

Jess and I were brand new parents... I was convinced my 1-week-old baby was dying... I called 911...

And the phone rang and rang... no one was answering... Someone picked up... before I could speak... the line went dead...

I was in a panic. I went outside; the fire department was not far from our home... and I paced the front yard. Every second felt like an eternity. I was so shaken, frustrated....

I didn't feel like help was coming... only silence....

Yet since I was on the landline, I did not know that help had been dispatched and was on the way the whole time...

There was a system delay; finally, the operator answered. The woman said, "Help should arrive any moment...", and sure enough, as I was telling her about Sofia's symptoms, which were all gone by then, the firemen rushed into the house.

Looked at our newborn baby... and first thing out of his mouth... "First-time parents?"

Apparently, that was not their first rodeo... The man graciously took Sofia's vitals so as not to make us feel too bad, while his team played with Jessica's boxer and pit bull...

But I remember this waiting time, feeling like help was not on the way when I needed it, was terrible.

Well, this is exactly where the prophet Habakkuk begins.

He looks at the world around him – violence, injustice, corruption – and he essentially makes a 911 call to the Lord...

He wants to know how long he has to call for help before the Lord will answer.

What I like about Habakkuk is that he is very relatable here; he is not calm, not polished, and actually confused and frustrated.

He is wondering whether God is silent or, worse, inactive altogether.

Maybe you have had those moments in your life.

What I notice here about Habakkuk is that he doesn't just talk about God; he talks to God.

Let's pray, and we will get into it...

The prophet Habakkuk ministered around the time of King Manasseh.

Remember, that king came after the revival of Hezekiah, and was evil, even killing Isaiah.

The ancient text Ascension of Isaiah (likely 1st–2nd AD) says that Isaiah was sawn in two by this wicked king.¹ **(Hebrews 11:37 “They were stoned, they were sawn in two...”)**

¹ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Ascension-of-Isaiah-pseudepigraphal-work>

Habakkuk would know the dangers of living out this calling before God and the people.

As the nation of Judah went the lowest, up to a certain point...

The wickedness, the depravity, the perversion went beyond anything they had done before.

Manasseh was extremely wicked.

And Habakkuk will be used to speak out against the corruption of the government and the nation, and he will cry out to the Lord.

He will see Babylon coming as a tool of judgment.

Which, really, was a new thing happening in the world at this time.

They had captured Nineveh, as we have already discussed... but that was so far from Judah, and had no impact on them...

Imagine watching a war, hearing about a war miles away, but not feeling the bombs shake your home, or hearing the bullets whiz by in your streets, you become detached from it all.

You become more of a commentator... men stand around belly-to-belly, talking of things oceans away... not knowing the pain and brokenness of war, but talking as though they can solve all its problems, if only someone would ask them.

There in Judah, even when the news came, Assyria had fallen to Babylon, Babylon had not yet become an empire...

And here this prophet is saying God will use them as His instrument of judgment... those men standing belly to belly... in their proud logic... they would laugh it off...

Impossible, the epicenter is too far away, it will never impact us here...

Look how the prophet begins in verse 1...

The Prophet Questions God's Judgments

1:1 The burden which the prophet Habakkuk saw.

We see once again... this was not an easy thing for the prophet.

This vision was a burden to deliver...

He starts by questioning the Lord...

Verse 2...

The Prophet's Question

2 O LORD, how long shall I cry,
And You will not hear?
Even cry out to You, "Violence!"
And You will not save.

3 Why do You show me iniquity,
And cause *me* to see trouble?
For plundering and violence *are* before me;
There is strife, and contention arises.

4 Therefore the law is powerless,
And justice never goes forth.
For the wicked surround the righteous;
Therefore perverse judgment proceeds.

The word for cry here means to roar...

This really is a burden for Habakkuk.

The evil is too much for him...

And he has made a very important discovery here...

One that I try to teach my kids all the time...

Life is not fair.

Injustice and inequity are the way of this world.

And as he sees it, he feels helpless to change it.

Notice, he does what many still do, what many of us have done: he questions God about it and wants to know why He has not done anything about it.

When is God going to restore order here? When will the wicked be punished, and the righteous rewarded?

He is questioning even why God has revealed these things to him.

Especially if he cannot do anything about it, why the torment?

He goes on to describe the justice system that no longer protects the innocent.

The courts were more protective of the criminal's rights than they were of the victim's rights.

Could you imagine a society where a lawbreaker would get caught and be seen as the victim?

So many loopholes were created, and corrupt judges were in place; the criminals did not stay off the streets for long.

It was a broken system and a broken society.

The same might be said for ours today...

That phrase in verse 4 could be spoken over California's justice system, "Justice never goes forth... but judgments proceed."

The courts are full, the clerks and lawyers are busy, but justice is not found.

Habakkuk saw the righteous in his day outnumbered and surrounded.

And he wondered as many do today, "Why is God not doing anything?"

God will speak up now, look at verse 5...

The LORD's Reply

5 "Look among the nations and watch —

Be utterly astounded!

For *I will* work a work in your days

***Which* you would not believe, though it were told
*you.***

Habakkuk accused God of not doing anything about the wicked in positions of leadership.

Maybe you have wondered how the wicked remain in leadership?

Look at God's reply... "Habakkuk, you will be utterly astounded by what I am going to do before you; if it were told to you what I was going to do, you wouldn't even believe it."

The prophet thought God was inactive, but the opposite was true.

God was doing something massive, beyond anything the prophet could see...

This is the case with your life as well.

So many times, we get so locked into what we want to see that we draw our conclusions from our narrow point of view.

But God is up above, outside of time and space...

His vantage point is above all the chaos and uncertainty of this place.

He has sent His Helper to guide us through this life...

All you can see right now is that great big problem before you, but you have no idea what God has around the corner.

God is already at work, even though it is invisible to us.

God tells Habakkuk His plans in the next few verses, and He will deal with the evil that the prophet was so frustrated about.

When Habakkuk voiced his complaint... God was already on the move... it just was not on man's timeline...

Learn to trust God's timing...

Verse 6...

6 For indeed I am raising up the Chaldeans,
A bitter and hasty nation
Which marches through the breadth of the earth,
To possess dwelling places *that are* not theirs.

7 They are terrible and dreadful;
Their judgment and their dignity proceed from
themselves.

8 Their horses also are swifter than leopards,
And more fierce than evening wolves.
Their chargers charge ahead;
Their cavalry comes from afar;
They fly as the eagle *that* hastens to eat.

9 "They all come for violence;
Their faces are set *like* the east wind.

They gather captives like sand.

10 They scoff at kings,
And princes are scorned by them.

They deride every stronghold,
For they heap up earthen *mounds* and seize it.

11 Then *his* mind changes, and he transgresses;
He commits offense,
Ascribing this power to his god."

This really is a pretty remarkable prophecy, considering the Assyrians were the dominating empire for the last 250 years.

No one would have ever thought another rival could come up so quickly.

But God spoke, and it would take place as He said. The Chaldeans or Babylonians would rise, conquering Assyria in 612 BC and then defeating Egypt at the Battle of Carchemish in 605 BC.

And the Babylonians, led by Nebuchadnezzar, would come to judge the wickedness and evil in Judah, and they would be used to address Habakkuk's complaint.

Consider verse 11 again... “Then his mind changes, and he transgresses, he commits offense, ascribing power to his god.”

Remember the story of Nebuchadnezzar... God used that man mightily, but as Daniel the prophet foretold, he was lifted up in pride, and Nebuchadnezzar was humbled, to eat grass like a beast in the field.

Instead of giving God glory, he let it all go to his head.

God humbled not only Nebuchadnezzar but also the Empire He used as His tool of judgment; it, too, would one day fall to God’s judgment.

Habakkuk prays once again at hearing this...

The Prophet's Second Question

12 Are You not from everlasting,

O LORD my God, my Holy One?

We shall not die.

O LORD, You have appointed them for judgment;

O Rock, You have marked them for correction.

13 *You are* of purer eyes than to behold evil,

And cannot look on wickedness.

Why do You look on those who deal treacherously,
And hold Your tongue when the wicked devours
A *person* more righteous than he?

14 Why do You make men like fish of the sea,
Like creeping things *that have* no ruler over them?

15 They take up all of them with a hook,
They catch them in their net,
And gather them in their dragnet.
Therefore they rejoice and are glad.

16 Therefore they sacrifice to their net,
And burn incense to their dragnet;
Because by them their share *is* sumptuous
And their food plentiful.

17 Shall they therefore empty their net,
And continue to slay nations without pity?

The prophet can't make sense of all of this.

“Lord, You are going to use the Babylonians!?” “How could you ordain them for judgment?”

“Why would You use them to judge us?”

The answer to the prophet's cry has created more questions.

In verse 13, the prophet reminds God, “You are pure, You cannot look upon evil with approval.”

You remember when Jesus was there on the cross, taking our sins upon Himself... He cried out...

Matt 27:46 "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

God is of pure eyes... He cannot look upon sin with approval...

And so the prophet takes up issue with God again...

“How can you use the Babylonians? How can you look upon them? You can’t look upon them.”

He confesses, “Yes, Lord, we are bad, we have sinned, but they are worse.”

So Habakkuk is having trouble reconciling God’s Ways here.

These people are wicked, they will just be conquering the nations, taking them captive, like catching fish in their nets... then they worship their nets... This doesn’t make sense...

And the prophet comes to this conclusion here in verse 1 of chapter 2...

2:1 I will stand my watch

And set myself on the rampart,
And watch to see what He will say to me,
And what I will answer when I am corrected.

He realizes that he has mouthed off to God, and now he understands that God will probably correct him for it.

Like a child, he says, "I will just sit here, and I will take it, I will wait for God to respond, and after he reproves me, then I will figure out what I will respond to Him."

What else are you going to do when you don't understand God's ways or methods for your life...

I believe most of us here are not going anywhere.

We are like Peter, when others started leaving Jesus when His teachings got difficult, and He asked the Twelve, are you going to leave too, and Peter said, **John 6:68-69 "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 Also we have come to**

believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

We don't always understand His ways, but where else are we going to go?

The prophet is in one of those places...

Verse 2...

The Just Live by Faith

2 Then the LORD answered me and said:

"Write the vision

And make *it* plain on tablets,
That he may run who reads it.

3 For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time;
But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie.
Though it tarries, wait for it;
Because it will surely come,
It will not tarry.

4 "Behold the proud,
His soul is not upright in him;
But the just shall live by his faith.

"it is for an appointed time." He is told...

To write it down, on the tablets, so that the people might read and know what is going to happen.

Because when it starts, it will be a while, but when it starts moving, it will move fast.

God has declared judgment that is yet to come on this earth.

In a few months, we will get into the Book of Revelation, and there will be great details of judgment that are promised to this world that are yet to come.

Of course, we see the world aligning itself, ripening for judgment.

Evil, especially, is on the rise, godlessness is sweeping our nation and world, and we know where history is headed, Church.

God told us in advance.

Notice in verse 4, the proud will eventually be cut down...

But the just shall live by faith.

Now, this is the word that Habakkuk would need in the coming days.

As the looming judgment was upon them, Babylon was on the rise.... Once these things began, the siege, starvation, the battles, Habakkuk would need to trust God, have faith in God, because he would have nothing else.

So, the just shall live by faith.

And Church, there are seasons in our life, this is all we are afforded... everything else is stripped from us... and all we have is our faith...

Think about what the prophet is saying...

Here in America, we think it could never happen to us...

We could never be brought to nothing... after all, we just seized the oil fields in Venezuela, we are taking the energy in the mid-east, we are boldly taking Cuba now... who can touch our power...

Look at the prophet's words again...

Behold the proud, the one whose soul is lifted up...

Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.
(1 Corinthians 10:12)

The just shall live by faith...

Sometimes, a season will come upon a person or people, where all we have is our faith... to teach us, all we need is our faith...

Habakkuk will be in this situation...

Understand that the verse we quote all the time came from a prophet who was about to enter a season of judgment, when everything was going to be stripped from his life...

Verse 5 now...

Woe to the Wicked

5 "Indeed, because he transgresses by wine,

He is a proud man,

And he does not stay at home.

Because he enlarges his desire as hell,

And he *is* like death, and cannot be satisfied,

He gathers to himself all nations

And heaps up for himself all peoples.

6 "Will not all these take up a proverb against him,

And a taunting riddle against him, and say,

'Woe to him who increases

What is not his — how long?

And to him who loads himself with many pledges'?

7 Will not your creditors rise up suddenly?
Will they not awaken who oppress you?
And you will become their booty.

8 Because you have plundered many nations,
All the remnant of the people shall plunder you,
Because of men's blood
And the violence of the land *and* the city,
And of all who dwell in it.

9 "Woe to him who covets evil gain for his house,
That he may set his nest on high,
That he may be delivered from the power of
disaster!

10 You give shameful counsel to your house,
Cutting off many peoples,
And sin *against* your soul.

11 For the stone will cry out from the wall,
And the beam from the timbers will answer it.

12 "Woe to him who builds a town with bloodshed,
Who establishes a city by iniquity!

13 Behold, *is it* not of the LORD of hosts
That the peoples labor to feed the fire,
And nations weary themselves in vain?

14 For the earth will be filled
With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD,
As the waters cover the sea.

The prophet now sees Babylon eating up the world.

They are building their empire with the treasures of all their conquered foes.

But even they, at the height of their power and pride, would fall... if you remember, Belshazzar was in the midst of a drunken orgy, partying behind his safe walls, when he fell.

Because he transgressed by wine, pride, and they did not keep their home.

They enlarged their desire in hell, they are as death, and could not be satisfied.

Think about our society: people get, and get more; consume, and consume more; yet we are never satisfied. We are a culture built on consumers...

Never satisfied.

This was Babylon's doom in the end...

The prophet now gives them their woes... they will fall to the Medo-Persians...

The judgment will come to them because they stole from others, and they gained from the bloody conquest of other people, destroying others for their own gain.

Forcing people into submission for their own riches and posterity, even though they were wealthy far beyond any other, they desired more and more for themselves... and they crippled nations for themselves and for their own glory... God does not look favorably upon this at all.

But notice the contrast the prophet gives at the end of verse 14... as he gives a glimpse into Jesus' Kingdom, when He comes to rule on this earth...

The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

This will be a marvelous time... the whole earth will be filled with the knowledge of Christ.

And the cruelty and injustice of this world are done away with.

Sin will no longer torment our souls....

This day is coming... a wonderful promise right in the middle of the prophet's writing...

Look at verse 15 now...

15 "Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbor,
Pressing *him* to your bottle,
Even to make *him* drunk,
That you may look on his nakedness!

16 You are filled with shame instead of glory.
You also — drink!
And be exposed as uncircumcised!
The cup of the LORD's right hand *will be* turned
against you,
And utter shame will be on your glory.

17 For the violence *done to* Lebanon will cover you,
And the plunder of beasts *which* made them afraid,
Because of men's blood
And the violence of the land *and* the city,
And of all who dwell in it.

18 "What profit is the image, that its maker should
carve it,
The molded image, a teacher of lies,
That the maker of its mold should trust in it,

To make mute idols?

19 Woe to him who says to wood, 'Awake!'

To silent stone, 'Arise! It shall teach!'

Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver,

Yet in it there is no breath at all.

20 "But the LORD is in His holy temple.

Let all the earth keep silence before Him."

The prophet is now led to call out the dumb and worthless idols that cannot speak.

Men who make these little idols out of wood, and out of gold, or out of stone... they can't wake them up, or get them to open their eyes, or put breath in their lungs...

They are of no use and will be of no use on the day of calamity, when God's judgment falls upon them.

God's final woe to the Babylonians is upon their gullibility.

And in verse 20, we see in contrast to the breathless idols of Babylon, but the Lord is in His Holy Temple. Let all the earth keep silent before Him.

Habakkuk went to the tower.

And there he has this glimpse of God's wisdom and glory.

He realizes that God is faithful, and God is sovereign over the affairs of man...

And here he is deciding to live by faith.

God showed the prophet that Babylon was really just a little nothing on the timeline of history.

The glory of Babylon would fade out as quickly as it came in...

But the Glory of God would shine forever.

The devil did not defeat Habakkuk, and get him in a dark hole of depression and self-pity...

No, the Word of God brought him out... truth lifted him above it all... This man would not be deceived...

He could see above his circumstances now... He could see with eyes of faith...

And this is where hope comes from... don't get stuck in your dark circumstances or despair, don't allow the devil to keep you in a place of questioning God...

Never forget, the story is not over, Church, and the just shall live by faith... If you only knew what God had in store... You wouldn't believe it if He told you in advance...

So, as we move into the last chapter, it is actually a Psalm.

Habakkuk uses the word Shigionoth, which is also found in Psalm 7; some think it refers to a musical instrument or musical notation.

This would be performed during temple worship... So not only a prophet, but a priest and a musician.

Look at verse 1...

The Prophet's Prayer

3:1 A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, on Shigionoth.

2 O LORD, I have heard Your speech *and* was afraid;
O LORD, revive Your work in the midst of the years!
In the midst of the years make *it* known;
In wrath remember mercy.

3 God came from Teman,
The Holy One from Mount Paran.

Selah

His glory covered the heavens,
And the earth was full of His praise.

4 His brightness was like the light;
He had rays *flashing* from His hand,
And there His power *was* hidden.

5 Before Him went pestilence,
And fever followed at His feet.

The prophet goes from crying, “God, I really don’t know why You are doing what You are doing.”

To, “I have heard Your speech, and I was afraid...
Revive Your work.”

Keep alive your work, Lord.... Don’t stop working...

Here in Habakkuk’s worship, we see a heart change, as he now takes on a position of faith.

He is choosing to trust God, even when he does not fully understand Him....

Lord, I trust You. You made the heavens and the earth; You have kept history going up to this point; You have sustained things till now. Keep things going...

In my life, Lord, don’t stop Your work...

And we can pray this, “Even though I don’t understand Your ways fully, Lord, I trust You.”

“Continue the Good Work in me that You have begun.”

And when judgment is being poured out, we can ask for His mercy.

Now, verses 3-16 are seen as both historic, looking at the Exodus.... Meeting Israel in Teman or Edom, into the wilderness of Canaan.

And also prophetic, describing Jesus Second Coming...

He will one day execute judgment on the armies of the world while defending the Jews who take refuge in Teman.

Habakkuk is showing that just as God once delivered the Jews in the past, He will also deliver them in the future.

By focusing on what God has done, they can look ahead in faith and have peace for their present.

Look now at verse 6...

6 He stood and measured the earth;
He looked and startled the nations.

And the everlasting mountains were scattered,
The perpetual hills bowed.
His ways *are* everlasting.

7 I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction;
The curtains of the land of Midian trembled.

And we can only imagine the fear the surrounding nations had when God shook Mt. Sinai.

It would have startled the nations...

Again, as we look ahead... when Christ the King comes, and He measures the earth, and establishes His Kingdom, the nations will be startled, as He establishes His everlasting ways...

Verse 8...

8 O LORD, were *You* displeased with the rivers,
Was Your anger against the rivers,
Was Your wrath against the sea,
That You rode on Your horses,
Your chariots of salvation?

9 Your bow was made quite ready;
Oaths were sworn over *Your* arrows.

Selah

You divided the earth with rivers.

Just a quick word on Selah...

This would be a musical notation...

It meant pausing to think it through...

This is where the guitarist would get his solo, as the people meditated on the lyrics...

Meditate... we don't do this well anymore...

Last night... my phone was getting the 183rd text... and my mind was about to overload... so I did whatever man does at 8:30 at night... I poured a bowl of cereal... Fruit Loops...

And I just went outside... sat on the tailgate of my truck... and looked at the stars, and just meditated on the Lord, in complete silence and boredom.

Did I want to look at my phone, the news, or my emails? It was a peaceful place to reply to the texts... I even thought about that app, a star-gazing app, that tells you the stars you are looking at...

I fought it all off... and just sat there... just me and the Lord... and the beautiful canvas He made for me...

I thought, “It is so pathetic that Satan has us on our little screens, so freaked out about the end of the world, and trying to figure out what celebrity they found connected to Epstein’s Island next, and what politician covered up this, and what Tucker is saying, and all this noise in this little handheld.

Selah... stop... meditate... shut it all down... let your mind rest... sit outside in silence before the Lord... and let your mind rest... leave the devices in your house...

The world will not stop... Some of us remember the world without instant everything...

There is more to this word Selah than I ever realized... Satan is stealing so much from us... in a frantic, wide-eyed, oh my goodness, busy brain...

Just rest it... meditate on your God... On the design of a flower... a butterfly wing... watch an ant hole and how hard those things work...

Just marvel at the Creator and all that He has made...

Selah... slow down... and take it all in... sit with your kids and listen to them talk...

Find a quiet place to chat with your wife... away from everything else...

Selah... I like that word more than ever...

I didn't like it in my younger years... there was too much to do, too much to conquer, too much to accomplish...

But the older I get... goodness.. I like to sit in the simple things... I like to sit with the Lord... with my loved ones...

Consider Him... Church, that is what this means...

10 The mountains saw You *and* trembled;
The overflowing of the water passed by.
The deep uttered its voice,
And lifted its hands on high.

11 The sun and moon stood still in their habitation;
At the light of Your arrows they went,
At the shining of Your glittering spear.

Remember, Joshua prayed at the Battle of Beth Horon for the sun and moon to stand still, and God worked a miracle.

God rained down hail from heaven and gave an extended day for the victory.

And in the last days, God will perform incredible signs and miracles as this world faces heavenly judgments once again.

Verse 12...

12 You marched through the land in indignation;
You trampled the nations in anger.

13 You went forth for the salvation of Your people,
For salvation with Your Anointed.
You struck the head from the house of the wicked,
By laying bare from foundation to neck.

Selah

Just as God was with Israel as they conquered Canaan, so too when Jesus comes again to this Christ-rejecting world, He will go forth for the salvation of His people.

The Bible tells us Church,

1 Thess. 5:9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Look at verse 14 now...

14 You thrust through with his own arrows

The head of his villages.

They came out like a whirlwind to scatter me;

Their rejoicing was like feasting on the poor in secret.

15 You walked through the sea with Your horses,

Through the heap of great waters.

16 When I heard, my body trembled;

My lips quivered at *the* voice;

Rottenness entered my bones;

And I trembled in myself,

That I might rest in the day of trouble.

When he comes up to the people,

He will invade them with his troops.

Back in Chapter 1, the prophet was in turmoil over the circumstances he was brought to.

In Chapter 2, he developed his faith in the Lord and got his eyes off those circumstances.

In Chapter 3, he looks ahead to the victory.

He sees how God orchestrates everything.

The past, present, and future are all in God's hands.

Habakkuk sees it clearly and now rejoices in this truth.

Hey, God is in control.

He rose up from the ashes of depression and despair and found victory in faith and trust.

He looked at God's faithfulness throughout history, which strengthened Him for today.

And this is good for all of us to recognize... that History is God's Story... it is His Story being told...

We will lose peace in our lives when we try to make His Story about us...

When we forget whose story it is...

When we forget the promises in God's Word... and start in the world on our own thinking and wisdom, with no thought of God or what He is doing.

When we move about in this life like that, of course, there is no hope... because there is no certainty.

But when you are looking to a God who holds it all, who controls it all, who is taking it all somewhere, then peace fills our lives.

With this full knowledge now, the prophet sings the loudest here...

Verse 17...

A Hymn of Faith

17 Though the fig tree may not blossom,
Nor fruit be on the vines;
Though the labor of the olive may fail,
And the fields yield no food;
Though the flock may be cut off from the fold,
And there be no herd in the stalls —

18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD,
I will joy in the God of my salvation.

19 The LORD God is my strength;
He will make my feet like deer's *feet*,
And He will make me walk on my high hills.

To the Chief Musician. With my stringed instruments.

When I was a kid, we used to sing a song...

“When no fruit is on the vine

When no fruit is on the vine

I will trust in You

I will trust in You

This life is no longer mine

I will trust in You

I know that You can do all things

You have been faithful and true.”²

Today we might say, “When the bank account is empty, when the bank forecloses on the house, when I get laid off, when my teenager crashes the car...”

Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

The prophet’s conclusion here is that no matter what comes to him in life, “I will trust in God, I will joy in the God of my salvation.”

The Hebrew meaning of what Habakkuk is saying here is actually a little Pentecostal; his rejoicing translates into jumping up and down, with the joy spinning around.

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0HW8XGSRUSE>

Habakkuk is truly rejoicing, laughing, and dancing at the knowledge that God is in control.

Jesus taught us:

Luke 12:22-34 "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. **23** Life is more than food, and the body *is more* than clothing. **24** Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds? **25** And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? **26** If you then are not able to do *the* least, why are you anxious for the rest? **27** Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. **28** If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more *will He clothe* you, O *you* of little faith?

29 "And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. **30** For all these things the nations of the world seek after,

and your Father knows that you need these things.

31 But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.

32 "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. **33** Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. **34** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Look how our prophet ends his song...

The Lord God is my strength, He will make my feet like deer's feet, and He will make me walk on my high hills.

When we stop at En Gedi in Israel, they have what are called Ibexes, and we have seen them multiple times.

They are wild local deer that jump around on the mountain ledges, going over really dangerous terrain with no fear.

They are so graceful without any thought of the danger around them.

God is here promising deer feet, if we would trust Him...

He will give us a sure footing even on the most challenging terrain in life.

Walk by faith, and you will be able to dance in the midst of danger.

Can Christians dance? Is that even allowed? Well, some can, I can't... but I do try in my kitchen with my wife and kids...

No matter what is going on in our lives, we try to enjoy God's incredible peace, even when life is gnarly and unpredictable.

God gives us this heart of worship and praise when we see Him above it all...

Whatever you are going through tonight... the Just Shall Live By Faith...

Look to your God above your circumstances.... He has a plan in the works... even if He told you, you wouldn't believe Him...

Just trust Him tonight...

Let's pray...