

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE

REVIVE YOUR WORK, O LORD

Habakkuk 3:2

Habakkuk (the book) is a dialogue, even an argument, with God - started by Habakkuk's prayer of 1:2-4 (in tone, both a complaint & a demand that God do something about the sin in His church, Judah).

In 2:1 Habakkuk said in effect: "In my disagreement with God, I know I must be wrong. I will wait for Him to correct me and then reply." God did correct Him (2:2-20), and Chapter 3 is Habakkuk's promised reply.

Do you find yourself objecting to God's providence? Do the warnings in His Word of chastening (personal & for the church), of judgments (on nations – including ours) & the final judgment, of the certainty of death & dying grip you with dread or move you to question God's justice & holiness? Learn from Habakkuk's final response to God.

1. Submit despite fear - 3:2

The Lord has told Habakkuk of judgments He will send on Judah (God's prideful, rebellious, unbelieving, & sinning church) & on the nation of Babylon (emblematic of the world in its pride & idolatry).

Habakkuk acknowledges his fear of this (3:2 "I fear," 3:16 "I tremble"). But his tone is no longer complaining & demanding.

He submits himself to God's revealed will in words that clearly imply his renewed conviction that the Lord IS just true in His judgments.

Ps.19:9, 145:17,, 97:2, Rev.15:3

This is where true faith in Christ, our Savior & Lord, must stand.

We can honestly face the prospect of suffering, because we trust that ALL that our Savior does is good – for us & for God's glory.

2. Worship – Chapter 3

Habakkuk's submission to God's word & will is not "bare acquiescence". Habakkuk composes a Psalm of worship (note vv.1,19c) -

in which vv.3-15 envision the awesome works of the Lord in judgments on the wicked & for the saving of His people, no longer seeing them as reasons to question God or object, but extolling God's might and power.

[Drawing poetic images from God's acts in the Exodus from Egypt & conquest of Canaan for Israel to envision God's future Works.]

Faith in Christ should move us to worship God for ALL His works – for the judgment that fell of Christ for us and for our salvation, and for the judgments coming on the world that persists in its unbelief.

3. Pray: "Revive Your work ... in wrath remember mercy!" –3:2

While accepting the justice of God's revealed will in His judgments, Habakkuk prays for God to temper his judgments with mercy.

We who see God's mercy revealed for the nations in Christ & know of the Pentecostal power of the His Spirit should earnestly plead for renewed mercies in Gospel revival to the glory of God's grace.