

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE
YET I WILL REJOICE IN THE LORD

Habakkuk 3:16-19

If you were an astronomer and discovered that an asteroid the size of Manhattan was going to strike the earth in 6 months (which could mean the end of almost all life on earth), what would be your response? Well, fear, of course, and then *action!* You would do all you could to warn the world and especially those who might be able to find a way to deflect or destroy that asteroid as their number one priority. (hmm –idea for a movie?)

We have seen Habakkuk (ourselves & the church mirrored in him) in a similar situation. Told by God of terrible judgments He is going to send on proud & sinful Judah (His church) *and* on proud & idolatrous Babylon (His instrument of judgment on Judah & emblematic of all the nations in their rebellion against God), Habakkuk must warn the people of what is coming, calling them to faith, that they might live.

And what of the Prophet himself? What is his response? Last Sunday we looked at his response in 3:1-15: ***fear, worship, & prayer*** for God to have mercy & revive His saving work in His people. Today we look at the end of chapter 3, vv.16-19. Again we see fear, but also an expression of the most amazing ***faith in the Lord***.

The Lord had Habakkuk record all this so that we would learn from him to face reality and the worst of our fears with a firm and rejoicing faith in God our Savior.

1. Fear – vs. 16

Habakkuk's fear – a sane response to God's warning.

Does God warn the church of judgments on unbelief and pride?

Does God warn of His judgments coming on the whole world?

What is the sane response?

Indifference is wishful thinking and self-delusion.

2. Faith – vv.17-19

Did God - & does God now – only warn of coming judgments?

No. He also promised salvation & life to all who repent & believe.

Heb. 2:4 "But the righteous will live by his faith."

God calls us & all the world to believe the gospel and trust in Christ promising those who do that they will live. John 3:16f, 11:25f

Despite his fears, Habakkuk believed God and trusted His promise.

He was able to look at the worst that could happen, and say:

"YET I will rejoice in the LORD .. the God of my salvation."

For believers in Christ facing the worst of earthly suffering –

The Lord Himself is the true source of joy (Phil.4:4, Ps.73:28).

We may be absolutely certain of His salvation – through Christ!

He is the source of our strength to hold on in adversity (Ps.73:26).

In & by Him we are made able by faith to rise above adversity –

like deer running across the mountain ridges – and see the coming glory that has been promised to us in Christ.

Come what may, no matter what, rejoice in the Lord & His salvation!