

SERMON NOTES

January 24, 2021

From Frustration to Faith

Habakkuk 2:20-3:19 (ESV) – Pastor Todd Manuel

²⁰ But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him. ¹ A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, according to Shigionoth. ² O LORD, I have heard the report of you, and your work, O LORD, do I fear. In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy. ³ God came from Teman, and the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah His splendor covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise. ⁴ His brightness was like the light; rays flashed from his hand; and there he veiled his power. ⁵ Before him went pestilence, and plague followed at his heels. ⁶ He stood and measured the earth; he looked and shook the nations; then the eternal mountains were scattered; the everlasting hills sank low. His were the everlasting ways. ⁷ I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction; the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble. ⁸ Was your wrath against the rivers, O LORD? Was your anger against the rivers, or your indignation against the sea, when you rode on your horses, on your chariot of salvation? ⁹ You stripped the sheath from your bow, calling for many arrows. Selah You split the earth with rivers. ¹⁰ The mountains saw you and writhed; the raging waters swept on; the deep gave forth its voice; it lifted its hands on high. ¹¹ The sun and moon stood still in their place at the light of your arrows as they sped, at the flash of your glittering spear. ¹² You marched through the earth in fury; you threshed the nations in anger. ¹³ You went out for the salvation of your people, for the salvation of your anointed. You crushed the head of the house of the wicked, laying him bare from thigh to neck. Selah ¹⁴ You pierced with his own arrows the heads of his warriors, who came like a whirlwind to scatter me, rejoicing as if to devour the poor in secret. ¹⁵ You trampled the sea with your horses, the surging of mighty waters. ¹⁶ I hear, and

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my body trembles; my lips quiver at the sound; rottenness enters into my bones; my legs tremble beneath me. Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble to come upon people who invade us. ¹⁷ Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, ¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. ¹⁹ GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places. To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments

A PRAYER

Silence

- Silence prepares our mind and spirit to receive truth

Revelation 8:1–5 (ESV) ¹ When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. ² Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. ³ And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, ⁴ and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel. ⁵ Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

Silence in heaven

- Action develops out of the silence
- The prayers which had ascended, return with immense force
- Prayer re-enters history with incalculable effects

- Our world is shaken daily by it

Adapted from Eugene Peterson

What Christians do in prayer is the most significant factor in the shaping of history, more significant than war and diplomacy, more significant than technology or art.

Oxford historian of modern history - Herbert Butterfield

According to Shigionoth

A POEM

Anguish and desolation

God's power and presence

A poetic tour

- Out of Egypt
- Into the land of promise

Precedent

- Habakkuk is rocked to the core of his being

Isaiah 6:5 (ESV) ⁵ And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

Daniel 8:27 (ESV) ²⁷ And I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for some days. Then I rose and went about the king's business, but I was appalled by the vision and did not understand it.

Revelation 1:17 (ESV) ¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead...

- Habakkuk is humbled to his core of his being

A vision is not something that we catch, it is something that catches us. When a vision catches us, we are never the same ever again. It is indeed the turning point of our life.

Source unknown



**Glad Tidings
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A DECLARATION OF FAITH

I will rejoice

The prophet Habakkuk sitting in the midst of his dreadful desolation, is still praising God and rejoicing in his unseen Savior.

Adapted from Noah Webster

High places

Who Am I?

*Who am I? They often tell me
I stepped from my cells confinement
Calmly, cheerfully, firmly,
Like a Squire from his country house.*

*Who am I? They often tell me
I used to speak to my warders
Freely and friendly and clearly,
As though it were mine to command.*

*Who am I? They also tell me
I bore the days of misfortune
Equably, smilingly, proudly,
like one accustomed to win.*

*Am I then really that which other men tell of?
Or am I only what I myself know of myself?
Restless and longing and sick, like a bird in a cage,
Struggling for breath, as though hands were compressing my throat,
Yearning for colors, for flowers, for the voices of birds,
Thirsting for words of kindness, for neighborliness,
Tossing in expectations of great events,
Powerlessly trembling for friends at an infinite distance,
Weary and empty at praying, at thinking, at making,
Faint, and ready to say farewell to it all.*

Who am I? This or the Other?

*Am I one person today and tomorrow another?
Am I both at once? A hypocrite before others,
And before myself a contemptible weebegone weakling?
Or is something within me still like a beaten army
Fleeing in disorder from victory already achieved?*

*Who am I? They mock me, these lonely questions of mine.
Whoever I am, Thou knowest, O God, I am thine!*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



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