**From Uncertainty to Certainty!** **Text: Habakkuk 3 Date: 8/1/21 Sunday AM**

Over 2,600 years ago the prophet Habakkuk faced an avalanche of uncertainty! So what’s changed over the past 2,600 years? **Nothing’s changed!** For many, **UNCERTAINTY ABOUNDS!!!** Today we face many uncertainties. We face uncertainty politically, economically, socially, relationally, internationally and spiritually! So yes, there is uncertainty everywhere! **Aren’t you thankful for God’s Word? I’m so thankful that we can share in the certainties of our Great God! The man of God was surrounded by massive uncertainties! YET, he finished well!!!**

The book of Habakkuk begins with the prophet ***wrestling*** with God. It moves into a period of ***waiting*** on God. Then here in chapter three we see Habakkuk ***worshipping*** the Lord at the deepest levels of his prophetic relationship! Most of us are at this point a little familiar with Habakkuk’s journey of faith in the Lord. He, no doubt, has experienced some roller coaster ups and downs! We’ve seen the judgment of Judah in chapter 1. We’ve seen the judgment of Babylon in chapter 2. Here in chapter 3 we see the prophet’s glorious vision of God.

In these last nineteen verses of Habakkuk we see the wondrous certainties of God flowing out through His Prophet! They are for us today! Let’s take a look at what he says and be blessed by it!

**I. First, we see The Prophet’s Prayer – 3:1-2**

* **HE PRAYED!** Habakkuk focuses on **THREE CHARACTERISTICS** ABOUT GOD IN HIS PRAYER: 1) Mercy 2) Majesty 3) Might
* **3:1** ~ **His Victory**/His Prayer/Action
* **Habakkuk 3:1 (KJV)** A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet upon Shigionoth.
* This prayer flows right out of the last verse of chapter 2. **Habakkuk 2:20 (KJV)** *But the LORD is in His holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before Him*.
* It’s really a beautiful thing to behold. The man of God as it were breaks the silence with a prayer to his sovereign Lord! The voice of God’s humble prophet comes forth. Out of the holy hush proceeds a holy prayer!
* I can’t think of a better, a more complete way of acknowledging the Lord than by praying. Habakkuk needed to pray! We need to pray!
* **What does this tell us**? It tells us that Habakkuk has moved beyond his wrestling and waiting! He touches the hem of the Lord’s garment in worship. He affirms his faith in God! He prays knowing that the Lord is in control.
* The Babylonians are still coming. He still has questions! He’s still waiting on the Lord to work, **but now things are different**! He’s on his knees reaching out to heaven… seeking the Lord!
* **3:2** ~ **His Vision**/His Petition/Appeal
* **Habakkuk 3:2 (KJV) O LORD**, I have heard Thy speech, *and* was afraid: **O LORD**, **revive** Thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years **make known**; in wrath remember **mercy**. **CONSIDER THESE TWO THOUGHTS:**
* **3:2A** ~ **First,** His Acknowledgment
* **Habakkuk 3:2 (KJV) O LORD**, I have heard Thy speech, *and* was afraid:
* Habakkuk had seen the works of God in Josiah’s reign. He knew what it was to be filled with praise for the Lord. He knew what it was like to rejoice in the Lord! Have we forgotten what it’s like to praise… to rejoice… to see the Lord high and lifted up?
* Habakkuk also remembered what the Lord said about judging Judah through the Babylonians!
* **3:2B** ~ **Secondly,** His Appeal [What does the prophet request?]
* Beloved, notice the life and hope he prays for!
* **3:2B** ~ O LORD, **revive** Thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years **make known**; in wrath remember **mercy**.
* Isn’t it interesting that Habakkuk seems to have forgotten all about his questions?
* He seems to have forgotten about how wicked the Babylonians are!
* He’s not nearly as focused upon his circumstances as he once was! **What’s going on?** His heart is being overwhelmed with a vision of God!
* First, we see The Prophet’s Prayer – 3:1-2

**II. Secondly, we see The Prophet’s Perspective – 3:3-15**

* **3:3-7** ~ **First,** His Perspective was shaped by **God’s Presence** = God’s Appearance
* **Habakkuk 3:3-7 (KJV)** God came from Teman, and **the Holy One** from Mount Paran. Selah. **His glory** covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise. 4 And ***his* brightness** was as the light; he had horns *coming* out of His hand: and there *was* the hiding of His power. 5 Before Him went the pestilence, and burning coals went forth at His feet. 6 He stood, and measured the earth: He beheld, and drove asunder the nations; and the everlasting mountains were scattered, the perpetual hills did bow: His ways *are* everlasting. 7 I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction: *and* the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble.
* **REMINDER:** “God is not a little old man upstairs who dotes on people with sweetness and light. He is all-powerful as He is all-loving. His grace and glory are coupled with might and majesty.” **Source**: BKC
* **QUESTION:** Have you noticed the difference in Habakkuk from chapter **1** to chapter **3**? He moves from Frustration [Wrestling/Idolatry/Injustice]>>>Faith [Waiting]>>>to the Fullness of God [Worshipping]!
* In chapter **1** he focused **ON** his circumstances. In chapter **2** he focused **THROUGH** his circumstances. And, then here in chapter **3** he focuses **BEYOND** his circumstances!!!
* **3:8-15** ~ **Secondly,** His Perspective was shaped by **God’s Power** = God’s Actions
* **Habakkuk 3:8-15 (KJV)** Was the LORD displeased against the rivers? *Was* Thine anger against the rivers? *Was* Thy wrath against the sea that Thou didst ride upon Thine horses *and* Thy chariots of salvation? 9 Thy bow was made quite naked, *according* to the oaths of the tribes, *even Thy* word. **Selah.** Thou didst cleave the earth with rivers. 10 The mountains saw Thee, *and* they trembled: the overflowing of the water passed by: the deep uttered his voice, *and* lifted up his hands on high. 11 The sun *and* moon stood still in their habitation: at the light of Thine arrows they went, *and* at the shining of Thy glittering spear. 12 Thou didst march through the land in indignation; Thou didst thresh the heathen in anger. 13 Thou wentest forth for the salvation of Thy people, *even* for salvation with **Thine Anointed**; Thou woundedst the head out of the house of the wicked, by discovering the foundation unto the neck. Selah. 14 Thou didst strike through with his staves the head of his villages: they came out as a whirlwind to scatter me: their rejoicing *was* as to devour the poor secretly. 15 Thou didst walk through the sea with Thine horses, through the heap of great waters. **[Referencing here a Future Exodus] [Israel’s Exodus is a picture of a Future Exodus led by God’s Anointed One!]**
* God uses nature to demonstrate His power! [**EXAMPLE?**]
* **The LORD makes the call in Exodus 14:15-18 (ESV)** The LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. 16 Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. 17 And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. 18 *And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen*.”
* First, we see The Prophet’s Prayer – 3:1-2
* Secondly, we see The Prophet’s Perspective – 3:3-15

**III. Thirdly, we see The Prophet’s Praise – 3:16-19**

* Here’s a preview of what he/we can expect from the Lord!
* Habakkuk reveals **two things** that he is going to do here: **1)** REST **2)** REJOICE
* Rest and rejoicing go together; just as anxiety and anguish go together!
* **Think about what’s happening here.** Habakkuk has a vision of God. What are the fruits of this vision? Rest and Rejoicing! I think we can all agree that these are two things we need right about now!!!
* Habakkuk has moved well beyond his frustrating circumstances to a place overwhelming contentment in God’s presence!
* **Let’s read it…** it’s a firsthand account of what happened to him when he heard the voice of the Lord!
* **3:16** ~ His Physical Experience = Frailty
* **Habakkuk 3:16 (KJV)** When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself, that I might **rest** in the day of trouble: when he cometh up unto the people, he will invade them with his troops.
* Habakkuk was truly shaken by the judgment he saw on the horizon; yet he was going to totally and completely trust in the sovereign care of His LORD!
* **3:17-19** ~ His Spiritual Experience = CERTAINTY!!!
* **Habakkuk 3:17-19 (KJV)** Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither *shall* fruit *be* in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and *there shall be* no herd in the stalls: 18 **Yet** I will **rejoice/jump for joy** in the LORD, I will **joy** in the God of my salvation. 19 The LORD God *is* my strength, and He will make my feet like hinds' *feet*, and He will make me to walk upon mine high places. *To the chief singer on my stringed instruments*.
* The Prophet outlined the worst possible consequences of Babylon’s invasion [Absolute ruin/abject famine]; **YET he was willing to trust God**!
* **3:17** ~ There may be: [Think of the implications here.]

no flowers on the fig tree

no fruit on the vines

nothing on the olive trees

no food in the fields

no sheep in the fold

no cows on the farms

* In spite of the worst possible situation… he was going to trust the LORD! **Habakkuk lost ALL fear of the supposing; his faith was in GOD!**
* **NO**! His circumstances had not changed; but he had changed!
* **3:18 ~** But I will still sing praises to the LORD! I will be happy with the God that makes me safe.
* **3:19 ~** The LORD, who is my master, will make me safe. He makes my feet as the feet of a deer so that I can climb mountains.
* Isn’t it remarkable what **prayer** can do? What the **power** of God can do? What the **presence** of God can do?
* As God’s people we can look into the face of our loving Lord and say, Lord, I will trust You come what may, I will trust YOU!
* **Ray Pritchard writes…** You’re coming out of confusing times. You’re in confusing times. **Or** you’re about to go into confusing times and you just don’t know it yet.
* So take this series and put it in your back pocket. If you don’t need it today, you’ll need it tomorrow or the day after tomorrow.
* I leave you with one final thought. You’ll never know that Jesus is all you need until Jesus is all you have. And when Jesus is all you have, then and only then will you discover that Jesus is all you need.
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* Thirdly, we see The Prophet’s Praise – 3:16-19