

THE GOD WHO REMEMBERS MERCY

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Centra Baptist Church—April 17th, 2022

Habakkuk 3:1-16

ESV

[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 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 troubles
to come upon people who invade us.*

Main thought: God's past faithfulness is the fuel for the believer's faith.

1) HABAKKUK'S PLEA: IN WRATH REMEMBER MERCY (1-2)

Habakkuk 3 a prayer in the form of a psalm

- Shigionoth = musical genre (see psalm 7)
- Selah—only in Habakkuk 3 (3x) and in the book of Psalms
- Musical instruction in verse 19

This is a prayer of revival.

The knowledge of God is what brings about revival.

God's salvation never comes apart from judgement.

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2) GOD'S RESPONSE #1: I AM THE GOD WHO COMES FOR HIS PEOPLE (3-7)

Verses 3-16 are hard to interpret

- Highly poetic
- Old Testament references
- Theophanies = physical representations of God

Habakkuk is evoking memories of the Exodus.

Exodus 2:24—*And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.*

Psalm 90:2

*Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.*

Jeremiah 17:9

*The heart is deceitful above all things,
and desperately sick;
who can understand it?*

Galatians 5:17—*[17] For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.*

3) GOD'S RESPONSE #2: I AM THE GOD WHO CONQUERS FOR HIS PEOPLE (8-16)

Verses 3-7 depict God as a glorious king / **Verses 8-15** depict God as a powerful warrior

As God through his representative delivered his people in the past, in a greater way he is delivering his people through Christ today.

As God calls to mind his faithfulness in the past he also reassures his people that he will be faithful in the future.

And this message of salvation through judgement ultimately points us to Christ's death and resurrection.