

When God Seems Inconsistent

#5 *The Prophet's Prayer—Habakkuk 3 (11/30/08)*

Chapter 3 marks a division in the book. Habakkuk is no longer questioning or protesting he is praying. This portion of scripture was to be sung in public worship.

- The phrase “on Shigionoth” - type of musical instrument or song
- The term “Selah” – a musical interlude of some kind
- The ending (19) “to the Chief Musician...”

Musical Praise Held a Prominent Place in the Worship of

1. A Plea for Intervention (1-2)

Based upon God's Reputation

- **The orientation of the prayer is to the _____**

What follows is a review of God's mighty deeds surrounding the Exodus and the conquest of Canaan.

The _____ Is a Primary Focal Point for Israel

- **The vision of the prayer is to the _____**

Habakkuk probably had Psalm 77 in mind. His confidence for the future is based upon what God has done in the past. “In wrath remember mercy”. This is based upon God's covenant promises to His people. Salvation is a covenant relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ. John 14:6, Ephesians 2:4-5

The _____ Is the Primary Focal Point for Christians

2. A Divine Vision (3-16)

A Theophany

Every Theophany is a Christophany, an appearance of Jesus Christ. Colossians 1:15, 2:9

- **The Principle of Double _____**

The Exodus and the events surrounding it are often used by the prophets as an analogy of prophetic events related to Israel's future deliverance. Isaiah 11:16, Micah 7:15

This section has a “future sense” to it. What God did in the past He is continuing in the present and will accomplish in the future.

God Dwells in the Eternal _____

- **A vision of God breaking into _____**

They are types of coming prophetic events called “the day of the Lord.” (4) Mount Sinai was covered in a cloud with lightening and thunder. God was hidden within the glory cloud. So it will be when Jesus returns, Isaiah 60:1-2. (5-7) God sent the plagues among the Egyptians before He delivered His people. The peoples of Sinai were terrified when they heard of what Israel's God had done, Isaiah 13:6. (8-11) God's destruction of Pharaoh's army in the Red Sea, the flood of Noah, and the conquest of Canaan are all in view. When God broke into history in past judgment it included cataclysmic events, Joel 2:30-31, Ezekiel 30:3.

When God Again Breaks into History It Will Be Witnessed

- **A vision concerning Israel and the _____**

(12-16) The prophet pictures God marching through the land of Egypt and destroying Pharaoh and his army. Habakkuk's vision looks forward to coming of the Messiah to deliver Israel, Zechariah 14:3-4, 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10. (16) Habakkuk trembled at the thought of the coming judgment by the Babylonians. However he had his spirit renewed by his vision of God. Prayer and the Word will always restore a warped perspective.

To See Things as They Were Caused Him Great Distress, but to See Things as they Will Be Created, Great _____

4. A Commitment to Devotion (17-19)

A Picture of a Devastated Economy

Even though his outward circumstances are difficult he has learned to rejoice. Not just endure but to rejoice.

• **Joy is not the _____ of problems**

Our greatest joy is often discovered in the midst of our greatest hurts. 2 Corinthians 7:4, "I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation."

He began his book as a man perplexed and confused. He ends as a man confident in his Lord and Savior. John 16:33,

The Only True Joy Is Found In _____

What have we learned from Habakkuk about dealing with life's inconsistencies?

Admit them honestly—Talk to God about them openly—

Wait before Him quietly—Trust Him completely