**Strongly Embracing Faith**

(Embrace, to clasp, to cling or fold the hands)

- To hold a tight grip to God’s hand –

Tightly Embraced

Known as the Prophet of Faith

The Name Habakkuk points to the strength of character of the Prophet of faith.

Hab. 2:4 “the just shall live by His faith”

Rom. 1:17 Gal. 3:11 Heb. 10:38

(Justification) (Living) (Faith)

Hab. 1:5 “I will work a work in your days which ye will not believe though it be told you.” - God’s judgment will cause wonder, terror and surprise.

Acts 13:41; 38-43

Hab. 2:2 Write the vision and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

Hab. 2:3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time but at the end it shall speak and not lie: though it tarry wait for it because it will surely come it will not tarry.

2:14 “For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord.”

2:20 “But the Lord is in His holy temple.”

3:2 “O Lord, Revive they work in the midst of the years.”

3:3 “God came.”

3:4 “His glory covered the heavens and the earth was full of His praise.”

3:18 “Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.”

3:19 “The Lord God is my strength, He will make me.”

The prophecy of Habakkuk is concerning the rise of the Chaldeans to power. God called Abram, the man of idolatry, from the Ur of the Chaldees and make him Abraham, the man of faith. Judah is now facing judgment from God by the hand of the Chaldeans because they have turned to idols. God used the Chaldeans to judge Judah even though they were heartless, cruel and bent wholly on evil, but in the end he would avenge His people of their adversary and restore His people.

Hab. 1:6-3:2

The book begins with a wail of despair, but ends with a shout of confidence. The secret of this faith, Hab. 2:4, is with those that dwell with the Lord in His temple. 2:20

2:4 “His faith” the fullness of His faith

2:20 “His holy Temple” – the fullness of His presence

3:19 “His strength is “my strength” – the fullness of His power

Outline of Habakkuk

I. The Burden Which The Prophet Did See

A. God’s mercy reached far beyond Habakkuk’s understanding

1:1-17 Eph. 2:4

1. The perplexed prophet

II Cor. 4:8 “perplexed but not in despair.”

a. “How long?”

1:2

b. “Why”

1:3

c. “Art thou not from everlasting O Lord my God, mine

holy one?

Hab.1:12 Rev. 1:18

d. “Wherefore”

Hab. 1:13

2. The praying prophet

a. Prolonged and earnest prayer

1:2

(1) God’s delay is not denial

(2) Not yet doesn’t mean never

(3) When God prolongs it does not create problems

(If there is a problem, it was already there.)

(4) God never fails to respond to the prayer of faith

The prayer of faith is always the right measure He is looking for.

b. It ‘s not wrong to have questions as long as you are looking to God for the answer.

His question was not against God but to God.

1:3 “Why”

1:3, 4 “Wrong judgment proceedeth” (from the people)

(1) Violent thoughts raises strife and contention

1:3

(2) Making an effort in the right direction doesn’t

mean you are gong forward

1:4 “Judgment – doth never go forth.”

(3) Sin is despised in the eyes of the prophet

while the law is despised in the eyes of the people creating a conflict. – God is slow to anger but sure to judge.

1:3-11

c. Abiding by the truth guarantees life.

1:12 “We shall not die”

II Cor. 6:9 Psa. 118:18 John 14:19 Matt. 16:18

I Peter 4:12 I Peter 5:10 Heb. 10:36 James 1:2-8

John 8:31, 32; 15:7 Psa. 105:19

d. God’s judgment is always just 1:12, 13

(1) “Ordained them for judgment”

1:12

(2) “Established them for correction”

1:12

(3) “More righteous than he”

1:13 I Peter 4:18

(4) God raised up the Chaldeans as an instrument of judgment.

e. God is patient with the sinners.

Job 21:7; 24:1

Psa. 73:2, 3

Jer. 12:1, 2

(1) God’s patience was abused.

They dealt treacherously.

1:13 God never tolerates sin

(2) God’s providence was rejected, but God is not

indifferent to the suffering of the righteous.

(a) The wicked devoureth the more righteous

Hab. 1:13 Gen. 4:1-8

(b) Hab. 1:14 “Makest men as the fish of the sea”

(c) Hab. 1:14 “Makest men…as creeping things”

(d) 1:17 “And not spare to save the nations”

(e) 1:11 They gave not God the glory

Acts 12:23

B. The prophet saw spoiling, violence, strife and contention in the

land. 1:3

1. “Spoiling” – robbery that causes desolation

2. “Violence” – wrong against your neighbor,

damage, injustice and unjust gain

3. “Strife” – a legal controversy, a suit

4. “Contention” – a contest, quarrel or discord

5. Habakkuk saw the rising power of the Chaldeans

1:6-17

(a) “bitter” 1:6

(b) “hasty” 1:6

(c) “terrible” 1:7

(d) “dreadful” 1:7

(e) “their judgment” 1:7

(f) “their dignity” 1:7

(g) “their horses” 1:8

Swifter than leopards – more fierce than the evening wolves.

(h) “their horsemen” 1:8

Spread, come from far and fly as the eagle.

Incredible swiftness.

(i) A violent instrument of judgment against Judah.

They move relentlessly forward, no retreat and

swallow up the captives as they advance.

1:9

(j) They scoff the kings 1:10

(k) They scorn the princes 1:10

(l) They deride every strong hold 1:10

(m) They defy Jehovah 1:11

C. The burden developed the minister

1:1-3:19

From a burden to a song.

From a heavy load to rejoicing.

From hardship to victory.

II. The Word That The Prophet Received

2:2-20

A. God’s faithfulness is the key to victory.

2:4,20 I Cor. 10:13

1. The waiting and patient prophet

2:1 “watch to see”

(a) God’s reproof against the people.

(b) The prophets response to be a good messenger.

(c) God requires patience because He sees the condition of the heart.

A Longfellow Poem

*Though the mills of God grind slowly*

*Yet they grind exceeding small;*

*Though with patience He stands waiting*

*With exactness grinds He all.*

God desires that none perish, but all will perish that are without God.

2. The faithful prophet writing

(a) “Write the vision and make it plain”

2:2

(That he may run that readeth it.)

Readily discernable – read it quickly and easily

(b) The vision is for an appointed time.

2:3

(c) The instrument of judgement is proud and evil.

2:4

(d) Habakkuk learned while he waits for an answer, God waits for a certain measure of faith.

2:4

“The just shall live by faith.”

(e) Five woes against the Chaldeans

2:5-19

(1) Drunkenness, pride, haughtiness, arrogance,

greed, lazy, irresponsible, evil desires, selfish, dishonest, thieves, violent. 2:5-8

(2) Covetousness, false security, greed for land and possessions.

“To his house” – Babylon 2:9-11

(Even inanimate things will raise their voice

and call for vengeance.) 2:11

Gen. 4:10 Luke 19:40

(3) Oppression, murder, (using riches gained by

murder to beautify their cities,) iniquity, slave

making

(4) Debauchery

2:15-17

(5) Idolatry

2:18, 19

(f) The glorious majesty of Jehovah contrasted with their dumb idols.

(1) “The Lord is in Hi s holy Temple”

2:20

God lives and dwells – the dumb idols are

lifeless.

(2) “Let all the earth keep silent before Him”

2:20

We must wait for His verdict.

Psa. 65:1 Psa. 76:8 Zeph. 1:7 Zech.2:13

(3) The verdict is in 2:4 and 3:16

He saw the calamity that was coming, it made

Him tremble.

“Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.”

II Cor. 5:11

Heb. 10:23; 11:11

(He remembered the word and triumphed)

Hab. 3:3-16

“That I may rest in the day of trouble”

Hab. 3:16

Through the word – His burden

Through the burden – His ministry

Through the ministry – His faith

Through Faith – His tests

Through the tests – His victory

3:13 “For the salvation of thy people with thine anointed”

I John 5:4 (Faith is the secret of God’s abiding presence and life.)

B. The prophet understood the judgment.

2:4-20

C. God’s Word made and developed the prophet.

(Hearing the Word – 1:5; 2:2,4-20)

(3:3-16 – remembering the Word)

III. The Joy The Prophet Retained

3:17-19

A. God’s judgments work for the believers’ good.

Hab. 3:17 Rom. 8:28

1. The rejoicing prophet

3:18

(a) “Although” 3:17

(b) “Yet” 3:18

(c) “He will make me” 3:19

2. The individuals decision

3:18

Complain or rejoice.

“I will rejoice” – the prophet’s decision.

3. The individuals knowledge

3:18

(a) The joy is in the Lord.

(b) You must know Him to love and rejoice in Him.

Eph. 1:17-19 II Peter 1:10 Eph. 3:19

John 13:17

4. The individuals experience

(a) This joy is the joy of salvation.

(b) Ex. 15:1-4 Hab. 3:3

5. The individuals commitment

(a) This joy is the joy of overcoming.

Heb. 12:2 Rev. 3:21 Matt. 19:28-30; 25:21

I Peter 4:12, 13; 1:6-8

B. The joy of the Lord is the prophet’s strength.

Hab. 3:18, 19 Neh. 8:10 II Cor. 12:9,10

C. The secret of abiding joy develops the overcomer.

3:19

1. Not great possessions, but great progression.

Luke 12:15-21

2. His burden is light.

Matt. 11:30

3. More than conquerors.

Rom. 8:37

4. A worker, a warrior, a worshipper.

1:1-17; 2:1-20; 3:1-19

5. The joy of the world is like a rocketflare that glares for a moment then fizzles out.

6. The overcomers joy is like a star, it keeps on shining and shines at it’s best in the night.

7. Embracing the promiser guarantees fullness of joy.

Psa. 16:11