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CYCLES

# The Book of Habakkuk

## Part 3

Kingdom Now Church  
Snellville, Ga.  
Bishop Jerry F. Hutchins

- Habakkuk had voiced his complaint to God. He did not like what God was doing.
- God reiterates that He will send the Chaldeans to carry Judah into exile and reminds Habakkuk that no matter what God does, “The just shall live by faith”. (2:4).
- God explains that His ultimate purpose in everything is that the earth be filled with His Glory. (2:14)

- ◉ God reminds Habakkuk of the lifestyles that Judah had practiced. He does so in the form of “woes.”

Greedy (2: 9-11)

Violent (2: 12-14)

Drunkards (2:15 -17)

Idolaters (2:18-20)

- ◉ God had tolerated Judah's behavior and reminds Habakkuk that He alone is God and He remains in His temple and takes no instructions

“The Lord is in His holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before him.” (2:20)

Chapter 3 is Habakkuk's humble response.

# Verse 1

## Meaning

## Verse

- A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet upon Shigionoth.
- Shigonoth
  - The plural word *shigionoth* and its singular form, *shiggaion*, each appear in the Bible once.

Psalm 7

- ◉ Most commentators think the word *shigionoth* was a musical note which carried the idea of “strong emotion,” “erratic wandering,” or “wild tumult.” Thus, the song was composed as a fervent impassioned poem.

- Comparing Habakkuk 3 with Psalm 7, we find similar themes. Both songs paint a picture of dire trouble. Habakkuk 3 speaks of earthquakes, crumbling mountains, pestilence, floods, arrows, spears, and calamity; Psalm 7 describes vicious lions, trampled lives, rage, swords, flaming arrows, and violence. Both songs end with praise to the Lord for His deliverance from the surrounding trouble.

- Both Habakkuk 3 and Psalm 7 are written while the author faces enemy threat.
- Both had questioned the actions of God and reconsider their original thoughts.

- ◉ Shiggaion and Shigionoth refer to an impassioned repentance for the thoughts that they had held.
- ◉ Shigionoth means to “sin through ignorance.” In the prayer upon Shigionoth, Habakkuk, in essence says that he never should have accused God as he did and proceeds to embrace the faith that God told him to live by. When put to music, his repentance was to be sung with strong emotions.

# Verse 2

## Meaning

## Verse

- <sup>2</sup> 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.
- Habakkuk is now saying to God “I have heard what you said and I have seen what you are able to do. You have pronounced your woes and you have every right to do whatever you choose. But in Your wrath.....please remember Mercy.

## Verses 3 through 15

The pouter becomes a  
praiser.

# Verse 16

## Meaning

## Verse

- 1<sup>6</sup> 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.
- “When I heard what you were saying, I started shaking all over.....I was amazed by the fact that I can rest in the day of trouble. Even when the Chaldeans come and invade with their troupes.....I can rest in the day of trouble because I live by faith.

# Verse 17

## Meaning

## Verse

- ◉ <sup>17</sup> Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour 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
- ◉ When the Chaldeans invade, they destroy everything, fig trees, vineyards, olive trees, gardens, and even livestock. The Chaldeans were vicious and Habakkuk acknowledges that they may indeed come and bring destruction.

# Verses 18 - 19

## Meaning

## Verses

- 18 Yet I will rejoice 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 God he pouted about became the God he gave praise to because He recognized that He's still that God of his provision. No matter what, Habakkuk decided to rejoice because the just shall live by faith. He closes telling his musician to play chapter 3 with enthusiasm and strong emotions.