

# Though the Fig Tree Should Not Blossom

Habakkuk 1:2-4 & 3:16-19

Ray Allen – May 17, 2020

WATCHING OUR WORLD CRUMBLING AROUND US

## The Terror of Anticipation – Hab. 3:16

*I heard and my inward parts trembled, At the sound my lips quivered. Decay enters my bones, And in my place I tremble. Because I must wait quietly for the day of distress, For the people to arise who will invade us. Hab.3:16*

**Habakkuk's prayer for the righteous of Judah.** Hab. 1:2-4

King Jehoiakim owed his throne to the Pharaoh.

He was corrupt, violent and oppressive. The righteous suffered without recourse. Hab. 1:3-4, cf. Jer. 22:17, 2 Kings 23:34-24:5

Prayer: Restore the days of righteousness and safety of King Josiah.

*Before him there was no king like him who turned to the LORD with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; nor did any like him arise after him. 2KI 23:25*

Habakkuk feels \_\_\_\_\_ .

*Why does God permit such violence and injustice?*

*The righteous are forced to stand by and watch abuses unfold.*

## The Terror of Anticipation - Hab. 3:16 (continued)

**God's astonishing answer to Habakkuk's prayer.** Hab. 1:5ff

The wickedness of Judah will be judged... however

God will use the Chaldeans to judge Israel.

*The Chaldeans: Ruthless, violent, arrogant, and idolatrous.*

How can God judge wickedness by using people who themselves are even more wicked? Hab. 1:13

The \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel will be swept away along \_\_\_\_\_ with the wicked.

**"Carve it in stone..."** -Hab. 2:2-3

*-Preserve these words for future generations to read.*

God will make all things right – at the appointed time.

*For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal, and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay. Hab. 2:3*

**The Ultimate Issue is Pride vs. Faith.** -Hab. 2:4

**-Not relative wickedness or relative righteousness.**

*Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; But the righteous will live by his faith. Hab. 2:4*

Only two options exist:

1. Humble faith in a holy God
2. The prideful choice to live life on some other terms

## The Threat of Destitution

– Hab. 3:17

*Though the fig tree should not blossom, And there be no fruit on the vines, Though the yield of the olive should fail, And the fields produce no food, Though the flock should be cut off from the fold, And there be no cattle in the stalls, Hab. 3:17*

**Babylonians were known for cutting down trees and killing livestock in their sieges.** *Hab. 2:17, cf. Is. 14:7-8*

**Jeremiah foretold the \_\_\_\_\_ of Judah's destruction.**  
*Jer. 5:17*

*And they will devour your harvest and your food; They will devour your sons and your daughters; They will devour your flocks and your herds; They will devour your vines and your fig trees; They will demolish with the sword your fortified cities in which you trust. Jer. 5:17*

**Habakkuk weaves Jeremiah's prophecy into the lyrics of his psalm.**  
**(verse 17)**

## The Confidence of God's Provision

– Hab. 3:18-19

*Yet I will exult in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength, And He has made my feet like hinds' feet, And makes me walk on my high places. Hab. 3:18-19*

In an agrarian culture, a man's \_\_\_\_\_ was in his crops and his flocks.

- Contemplating his circumstances -Habakkuk trembles and becomes sickened at the dangers threatening his life. v. 16
- Reflecting on his God - Habakkuk can leap for joy in the confidence that his life is safe in God. v. 18

**His (trembling) legs – become sure-footed as a gazelle's.**

**His (threatened) life – is now safely out of reach, high above the inevitable destruction that awaits the nation.**

**Where is my strength, and my life, today?**

*Col. 3:3-4; Lu. 12:15; Mat. 10:28; Heb 13:6; Gal. 2:20*

***Is my faith – in the strength of my world or the strength of my God?***