

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 (ESV)



Habakkuk 3:1-19 – How Can I Have Joy In My Troubles?

September 2, 2018

7. How can I have joy in my troubles?

Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, Habakkuk 3:17 (ESV)

yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places. To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. Habakkuk 3:18–19 (ESV)

1. I have joy because I have Yahweh.

2. I have joy because Yahweh promises to save me.

3. I have joy because Yahweh promises to be my strength.

Where Do I Find My Joy?

Is my joy coming from my circumstances? God wants my joy to come from knowing the Almighty God of the universe loves me. He promises to save me by faith in Him. He promises to be the strength I need in hard times as I trust in Him.

The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. Psalm 34:10 (ESV)

1. What is the genre of this chapter?

A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, according to Shigionoth. Habakkuk 3:1 (ESV)

2. Habakkuk wants Yahweh to show up.

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. Habakkuk 3:2 (ESV)

3. What happens when Yahweh shows up?

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. Habakkuk 3:3 (ESV)

For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the

two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. Joshua 2:10 (ESV)

Yahweh's brilliance is more than we can handle.

His brightness was like the light; rays flashed from his hand; and there he veiled his power. Habakkuk 3:4 (ESV)

Yahweh's presence is more than creation can endure.

Before him went pestilence, and plague followed at his heels. Habakkuk 3:5 (ESV)

Yahweh stands over the earth.

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. Habakkuk 3:6 (ESV)

Yahweh's reign is world-wide.

I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction; the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble. Habakkuk 3:7 (ESV)

Yahweh displays His power over creation to save His people.

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? Habakkuk 3:8 (ESV)

...but the righteous shall live by his faith. Habakkuk 2:4 (ESV)

You stripped the sheath from your bow, calling for many arrows. Selah You split the earth with rivers. Habakkuk 3:9 (ESV)

4. All creation bends to Yahweh's will.

The mountains saw you and writhed; the raging waters swept on; the deep gave forth its voice; it lifted its hands on high. Habakkuk 3:10 (ESV)

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. Habakkuk 3:11 (ESV)

5. Yahweh displays His power against the enemies of His people to save them.

You marched through the earth in fury; you threshed the nations in anger. 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 Habakkuk 3:12-13 (ESV)

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. You trampled the sea with your horses, the surging of mighty waters. Habakkuk 3:14-15 (ESV)

6. Knowing Yahweh's history of using His power to save His people, how does that change the way Habakkuk thinks about the coming Babylonian invasion?

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 trouble to come upon people who invade us. Habakkuk 3:16 (ESV)

...I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the Lord, who does all these things. Isaiah 45:6b-7 (ESV)