

How Long, O Lord?

Habakkuk's Song Part 2
Habakkuk 3:3-15
March 10, 2024

You went out for the salvation of your people, for the salvation of your anointed. - Habakkuk 3:13

I. THE LORD, THE DIVINE WARRIOR

- Habakkuk recounts the Lord's works as Creator and Judge. He is viewed as leading his people out of bondage in Egypt. The image is of one watching the advance of the Lord as a *Theophany* (Deut. 33:2; Judg. 5:4-5).
- Pestilence and plague follow the Lord as his attendants. The ancient curses of the covenant will fall upon the Lord's people (Vs. 4-6; Lev. 26:25; Deut. 28:21-22).
- The Holy One of Israel will strike down first the ungodly in Israel, and then the pagan Babylonians without partiality (Rom. 2:9-10; 1 Pet. 4:17).

II. GOING OUT FOR SALVATION

- God is aroused to defend his people. The history of our world is the history of God's plan of salvation (Vs. 13; Gen. 3:15; Rev. 7:9-12).
- God is active in our salvation, not passive. He is not waiting for his people to decide. He has acted in history, ancient and near, to bring us to himself. Salvation belongs to the Lord (Ps. 3:8; Jonah 2:9; Rom. 8:31-39; Rev. 19:1-2).
- The term "your anointed" in vs. 13 is debated. It likely refers to King Cyrus, the Persian king who would subdue Babylon. It also speaks of a coming anointed one who will restore God's people in the fullest redemptive manner (Isa. 45:1; Matt. 1:20-25; Heb. 9:26-28).
- The security of God's people depends upon God's great acts of judgment and redemption throughout the ages by the Savior who was called from the foundation of the world (1 Pet. 1:18-21).

KNOW: God has "gone out" for the salvation of his people. He saved Israel so that he might bring forth his anointed from them, who will be their salvation and ours.

DO: Rejoice that God has planned your salvation from eternity past, and has worked all things toward that end.

Suggested Reading:

All of Grace by C.H. Spurgeon (Available in the LifePoint Library)

For Children:

His Grace is Enough: How God Makes it Right When We've Got it Wrong by Melissa Kruger (Available in the LifePoint Library).

NEXT WEEK'S PREACHING TEXT: Habakkuk 3:16-19

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Habakkuk 3:3-15

1. What is the overall theme of this passage?
2. According to this text, what is God like?
3. What are your thoughts concerning a text of Scripture that makes God look and sound like a warrior?
4. How does nature react to God when God is displaying his wrath?
5. Vs. 13 tells us that God "went out" for the salvation of his people. Is God active in their salvation or passive?
6. God has gone to great lengths to save you. How does that make you feel?
7. What personal application is there for you from this text?