

I Rejoice Because I Trust – Outline

I. Introduction – Habakkuk’s Prayer and Response to the God He Knows.

- a. Recap of Habakkuk so far.
 - i. Habakkuk 1- God’s answer to prayer seems unfair.
 - ii. Habakkuk 2 – We must wait patiently on God’s will.

II. Knowing God is Good

Habakkuk 3:2 - Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.

- a. Calling on God to remember mercy in his wrath is not a new concept.

Psalms 6:1-2 - LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath. Have mercy on me, LORD, for I am faint; heal me, LORD, for my bones are in agony.

- b. King David knew of this need for himself.

Lamentations 3:32 - Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love.

- c. Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, remembered this as well.

Isaiah 54:8 - In a surge of anger I hid my face from you for a moment, but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you," says the LORD your Redeemer.

- d. God himself says that though his anger burns, his kindness and compassion are everlasting.

We must always remember that God is the pinnacle of both justice and mercy. God’s wrath must be satisfied, but his mercy is also boundless, renewing day after day for his followers.

Psalms 36:5 - Your love, LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.

III. Praising God's Power

- a. Habakkuk spends the largest portion of chapter 3 praising God's power. He praises both his power, and his wrath.

****READ: Habakkuk 3:3-15****

- b. **Verse 13** – The anointed one refers to those like Moses, Joshua, and David, who were types of Messiahs for their time. Like Jesus, these individuals delivered God's people from difficult circumstances.
- c. Habakkuk acknowledges that God delivers his people, even when circumstances look dire.
- d. No matter how dire circumstances may look for you now, do you believe that God will deliver you? Jesus brought in an age of unbridled mercy for those who would believe in Him.

1 John 4:9-10 - This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

- e. Remember, God is the pinnacle of both Justice and Mercy. We see that here. The sacrifice of Jesus paid the debt for our sins, past, present, and future. In this, justice is satisfied. At the same time, this was an act of mercy towards us, demonstrating the severity of God's love.
- f. The gift was not "free". This is something that Christians commonly say regarding the salvation they receive. Instead, it is "paid for". It came at a heavy price. The trial, and death of our Savior in human form.

IV. Resolving to Trust in God

- a. Habakkuk wraps up his prophecy by basically saying, "I may not fully understand, but I trust in God."

Habakkuk 3:16-19 - I heard and my heart pounded, my lips quivered at the sound; decay crept into my bones, and my legs trembled. Yet I will wait patiently for the day of calamity to come on the nation invading us. Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior. The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights.

(READ 2X)

- b. Though we may face seasons of difficulty at the hands of others, we must be reassured that God's justice will be satisfied in due time. We must resolve to trust God.
- c. In trusting God, we can find joy, and joy can bring us happiness even amidst difficult circumstances.

Re-explain the difference between joy and happiness.

- d. VERSE 19 – Heights are dangerous. Sometimes, we have to walk the narrow path of God in the heights, but God gives us sure footing. He upholds us and makes sure that we do not fall.

Isaiah 41:10 - So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

- e. We have his strengthening, and his help. We have the blessing of Christ at His right hand. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit will deliver us through difficult times. We must rest assured of that at the end of each day.

V. Prayer

VI. Invitation