

Deliver Us From Evil

Habakkuk 3:1-15

Deliver us!

Have you given up on God? Answer that question for yourself. Do you only turn to God when you've exhausted all of your own "good" ideas? Does God and His Word seem irrelevant to the crisis you're facing, the questions you're asking? **Is God and His Word the final authority for all matters of your life or just a select few?**

Jesus taught his disciples to pray to their Father that He would deliver them from evil. To whom are we praying for deliverance? As we have repeatedly seen, Habakkuk had real concerns about the state of his world. He cried out to know God and what He was doing in the midst of all of this. God's response to his prophet ended with the reminder that He is alive and active, ruling and reigning from His holy temple. Habakkuk hears and receives this answer which leads him to pray this prayer we find in today's passage.

Rather than looking for some new bit of information or revelation, Habakkuk looks backward. The prophet calls to mind in prayer the mighty deeds of God and pleads that God would move in power in his day. What about in our day?

As followers of Jesus, we don't need new answers for what we're facing, we need to reconnect with the eternal answers God has already given. We need to look backward and remember how God has worked in our lives and be grounded in the truth that He is working still in our present and future. We can trust He is sufficient for all that we're facing.

3 God-exalting focuses for life and prayer

1. God _____ (3-8).

The poetic language of these verses paints various pictures of the Exodus story. Imagine what it would have been like to be a slave in Egypt and to see God move in power through the plagues, the parting of the Red Sea, to be led through the desert by cloud and fire.

God did not leave His people as slaves in Egypt. Habakkuk calls this to mind and prays that God would come yet again in his day. He would come and set things right. He would come and remove the power of evil in Judah. He would come and cleanse the evil found in the Chaldeans. Habakkuk remembers Yahweh is our God who shows up.

It is powerful to remember that God shows up. God came. God has entered into our human struggle through the life of Jesus and came out victorious over the struggle we face.

...we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. - Hebrews 4:15-16

Do you know the power of God showing up in your life? Do you remember or are you quick to forget how God has come for you? Do you minimize the significance of the Creator God who understands **you**? God who made everything, perfect in wisdom, perfect in power, perfect in all of His perfections is able to sympathize with the weakness we face. It is for this reason that we are able to draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and grace to help us in our time of need.

2. God _____ (9-13a).

In this passage we see God who is a warrior, fighting on behalf of His people. Habakkuk recalls the incredible feats of God as He leads His tiny nation of doubters into Canaan, the land of the giants. And what does He battle for? The salvation of His people. The song depicts everything in creation submitting to the work of God for the plan of salvation of His people.

We can be guilty of having a lack of trust in God. Will He really **deliver**? Is life done His way really the best life for me? Can I trust Him and His plans? Will He be there when I need Him? Will He come through?

If you're struggling with those thoughts this morning, take a note from Habakkuk's prayer. Recall in the past when and how God delivered. Ultimately, remember that He called you to Himself and delivered you from the life of sin that leads to death. He was faithful to save you. He will continue to be faithful.

3. God _____ (13b-15).

In this final stanza of Habakkuk's prayer song, the prophet focuses on God's defeat of Pharaoh in the Exodus account. Not only Pharaoh but all other opposition that attempted to attack and defeat His people.

Satan is a defeated liar. All the forces that exist today that oppose God are already defeated. In due time we will experience this reality in its fullness.

We studied this recently in our Colossians series:

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. - Colossians 2:13-15

Focusing on God who came, who delivered, and defeated should change our prayer life. These realities as we increasingly focus on them should change our outlook on life and how we walk in this world. Yes, we still have to deal with the power and presence of sin in our lives and our world, but we know our God is active in His reign and rule over it all.

Do it again!

So where do these three focuses leave us? I believe we finish right where we started our study this morning. As we look back on all that God has done in His Word, throughout history, and in our lives personally, may the truth of who He is and what He has done propel us forward.

May we join Habakkuk in his prayer, "Lord we have heard the report of You! We remember all that You have done. We have seen Your work in our lives and our situations. You have given us memories of how You faithfully came, delivered, and defeated Satan and sin in our lives. We know that You will continue to show up now in our present and in our future. In these days, in this time, would You revive Your work. In our day and in our time, in this place, in our homes, our church, our country, our world, would you make Your work known..."

And may You start in _____...