

**REJOICE, COME WHAT MAY**  
*Grace Lutheran—October 3, 2011*  
**Habakkuk 3**

**Introduction: Review.**

Habakkuk's honest questions echo ours today. "God, when are You going to save us and right injustice?" He reviews what he knows: God is holy, pure, just, Judge, eternal, unchangeable. Confused, he stands in question, but sees it's all mankind, not just Judah & Babylon.

God answers, "I see the wicked. Justice will come, in My time. Meanwhile, live by faith." Then He defines the law, describes the guilty, displays His sovereignty over the nations. He points us to build the Kingdom with costly materials, not just fuel for the fire, not seeking to save our own lives. One day the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God. / *want to know Christ...* (Phil 3: 7-11).

The Judge enters His court (2:20). We all stand before an awesome God, terrible in His perfectly just judgments. The verdict: for all the universe, for all eternity. Heart-stopping. Hold your breath. Keep silent!

**Habakkuk responds with prayer (Hab 3:1 - 2)** No longer questions, complaints.

- 1) *Lord, I have heard of your fame;*
- 2) *I stand in awe of Your deeds O Lord.*
- 3) *Renew them in our day, in our time make them known; (Mt 6:10, Rev 22:20)*
- 4) *...in wrath remember mercy. (Romans 5:8)*

What grace: though we are so small and broken, our perfect, awesome Maker, huge and just and holy should let us kill Him on the cross, should die for us at our own hands, yet should love us in such detail that every hair of our head is numbered, that His thoughts for us outnumber the sand of the sea! (Ps 139:16)

**Habakkuk's song (Hab 3: 3-15).** A poetic picture of heaven, earth and its peoples before the Lord.

(we'll also refer to Lk 21:25; and Rev 6:14, Ps 144:5)

v.3 *His glory covered the heavens and His praise filled the earth*

v.4 *...like the sunrise.* Increasing in glorious intensity, the more you know Him, dispelling dark

v. 9, 11 ... *arrows...* God's judgments

v. 11 ...*sun and moon stood still.* Even the heavens stand still in respect, awe (2:20)

v. 12- 13 ... *You threshed the nations. You came out to deliver Your people...* (big picture)

v. 13 - 15 ...*crushed the leader... pierced his head* (Gen 3:15)

## **Habakkuk's response to the terror of God's wrath, the awesomeness of His glory (3:16)**

Consider this: If we see His awesome greatness, what would it be like? How would we act?

Reverent fear: keep you from sin

Confessing our sin to one another, without fearing what someone thinks of us (Mt 10: 28)

Faced with disaster: still confident He is bigger! Resting in Him.

Obedient. Joyful, unafraid resting in Him, come what may.

Bold in evangelism, filled with excitement & joy. Longing to know Him!

Imagine what a church would be like, with a perspective of the greatness of God:

Not cool, self-respecting, wanting others' respect

When the Spirit moved: no fear of what others think

Also, too much reverent fear to fake it to impress people

**The song's crescendo: where Habakkuk lands (3: 17 - 19) Where we need to live!** What's changed? Still economic disaster. Still famine, drought. Babylonians still coming. Yet he's transformed from standing in question, to standing in awe, joyful, patient. What's changed?

**Habakkuk saw God!**

**You can scale mountains of problems when you see how great and awesome is our living God!!**

Now, no matter what trials or tragedies or trauma we face like cliffs in the mountains—we are enabled to go on, to be joyful and strong—when we see Him: huge, all powerful, awesome. Our worst scenarios shrink to a right perspective. Nothing is impossible with God. He may let injustice prosper for a season, but in His time He'll make it right.

**Rom 8: 38-39 (nothing) ...can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**Mt 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.**

**Heb 12: 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for joy...**

**Habakkuk** landed in joy, He saw greatness of our awesome God, the terror of His perfect judgments—yet saw the Lord His Mighty Savior, and rejoiced. That's ere we a nee o Joyful faith. Whatever impossible mountains you face are nothing—when you see Him! Scared? Think about His greatness...

*How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in the believer's ear,  
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds, and drives away his fear.*

*Weak is the effort of my heart, and cold my warmest thought,  
But when I see You as You are, I'll praise you as I ought.*

-John Newton