

Series: Questioning God; Sermon: **A Questioner Becomes a Prayer**
delivered by **Josh Moody**, senior pastor, on August 16, 2020

Bible text explored: Habakkuk 3:1–19

¹A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet,
according to Shigionoth [meaning uncertain].
²O 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.
³God came from Teman,
the Holy One from Mount Paran.
His splendor covered the heavens
and the earth was full of his praise. *Selah*
⁴His brightness was like the light;
rays flashed from his hand,
and there he veiled his power.
⁵Before him went pestilence,
and plague followed at his heels.
⁶He 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.
⁷I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction;
the curtains of the land of Midian did
tremble.
⁸Was 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?
⁹You stripped the sheath from your bow,
calling for many arrows. *Selah*
You split the earth with rivers.
¹⁰The mountains saw you and writhed;
the raging waters swept on;
the deep gave forth its voice;
it lifted its hands on high.

¹¹The sun and moon stood still in their place
at the light of your arrows as they sped,
at the flash of your glittering spear.
¹²You marched through the earth in fury;
you threshed the nations in anger.
¹³You 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*
¹⁴You 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.
¹⁵You trampled the sea with your horses,
the surging of mighty waters.
¹⁶I hear and my body trembles,
my lips quiver at the sound;
Rottenness enters into my bones;
my legs trembled beneath me.
Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble
to come upon people who invade us.
¹⁷Though 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,
¹⁸yet I will rejoice in the LORD,
I will take joy in the God of my
salvation.
¹⁹GOD 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.

Review and application:

Habakkuk offers, in dramatic form, his reaction to God's assurance of eventual justice for those who will punish the sins of his own people, Judah.

1. In his time of deep need, to whom (*verses 1-2*) does Habakkuk turn?

What about God's past exploits provides assurance of how God executes his justice over time, and how patient trust can keep his subjects faithful?

How does Habakkuk request that God exercise his power?

But for what limit to severity of this application of justice does he plead?

Habakkuk now poetically reviews four legendary examples of God's power:

2. How (*verses 3-4*) did God's giving of the law at Mount Sinai announce true justice and demonstrate his right to define it?
3. How (*verses 5-6*) did the plagues God inflicted on the Egyptians expose the futility of opposition to his sovereign power?
4. How (*verses 7-10*) did the piling up of the Red Sea waters and the conquest of the Promised Land display God as captain of a divine army?
5. How (*verses 11-15*) did God demonstrate that he controls the forces of the natural world? (See *Joshua 10:11-14*.)

When Habakkuk referred to "your anointed [*Messiah/Christ*]" in *verse 13*, he had Joshua in mind. But years later, who is also clearly designated by these inspired words?

6. What (*verse 16*) was Habakkuk's initial reaction to his own survey of overwhelming world events and God's blazing glory?
What helped him shift from trembling fear to calm repose?
7. To what results (*verse 17*) is Habakkuk resigned from the chastening God will send?
How am I learning to trust in God's providence regardless of current circumstances? (See *Hebrews 13:6*.)
8. To what "inward frame of spirit" (*verse 18*) has Habakkuk resolved to submit?
Why does God's "fatherly disposal" make this submission fit any condition we may confront?
Why does affirming this confidence produce a deep, settled joy?
9. What (*verse 19*) will give Habakkuk the surefooted strength to endure?

Pastor Moody suggested a six-word take away from this passage:

"Worry about nothing; pray about everything."