



21 DAYS OF PRAYER

10

DAY 10

JANUARY 18, 2023

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KEY SCRIPTURES

Habakkuk 3

“Yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation” (Hab. 3:18, NIV). Reading this beautiful piece of poetry in Habakkuk, I can’t help but be challenged by the confidence of Habakkuk. I am astonished by his reliance on God to show up amidst difficult times. As I read, I am encouraged that the prophet acknowledges the reality of living in difficult times and yet finds a reason to trust in the Lord.

He calls on God to show up because he knows of circumstances where God has done so before. Right from the beginning, I notice an unflinching confidence by the prophet when he acknowledges the work of God among his people in the past, and he invites God to repeat his powerful work again. “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...” (Hab. 3: 2, NIV). The following question comes to mind after reading Habakkuk’s beautiful expression: do I have the patience to wait for God to show up? I find I am always tempted to do things alone and go my own way without trusting the Lord to work on my behalf.

In addition to this unflinching confidence, Habakkuk points out some unsavory things that he and God’s people have faced: invading armies, pestilence, plagues, famine, and even the mountains and hills which serve to protect them collapse. I find it interesting that some of these bad things happen after has God shown up. It shows me, as I take a deep breath, the journey of life is not always smooth or easy, even when God is with us. God shows up and defeats my “invading armies” which are prone to distract and overtake me.

I am astonished that lack does not prevent Habakkuk from worship. How often do we praise God when things are going well, and then only complain when things are not the way we think they should be? Habakkuk shows us how powerful worship is amid desperation. And so, he says “Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines...yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Saviour” (Hab. 3:18, NIV).

REFLECTIONS

- ▶ What battle can you thank God for fighting for you?
- ▶ What are you lacking in life? How can you praise God in the middle of it all?

PRAYER

Dear Lord, I rejoice in the fact that you show up. You never let the people of Israel down, even when it looked like you had abandoned them. In the wake of my troubles, thank you for your peace. Thank you for your victory. Please give me the strength I need to endure the challenges of life. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

