

“Thank God!”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Internet Sources)

Introduction:

A. Hab. 3:17-19

1. There were 102 Pilgrims in 1620. 56 died due to starvation, disease and the cold winter. In 1621, 46 Pilgrims and 91 Native Americans met to give thanks for a bountiful harvest and for the preservation of their lives.
2. They had every reason to be depressed and discouraged, but they were thankful instead.

B. *The book of Habakkuk was written against a backdrop of apostasy, judgment and hardship. Jehoiakim, king of Judah, led the people back into idolatry.

1. Consequently, God is preparing to judge the nation. Habakkuk is having trouble understanding why God would use a heathen nation like Babylon to punish His people. He cannot understand why God doesn't just purge their sins and draw them back to righteousness.
2. Habakkuk is a lot like Job. He argues his case, but in the end, he realizes that God is not to be worshiped merely because of the temporal, material blessings of life, but because He is God
3. He ends his book with a song of thanksgiving to God for Who He is and for the unchanging benefits that belong to those who know Him.
4. Habakkuk had reason to fret, but he chose to be thankful instead.
5. “I don't understand all that is happening, but I am going to thank God anyway”

I. HIS SOVEREIGNTY NEVER CHANGES

A. Circumstances change; God never does - Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8; James 1:17

1. Egypt: 7 years of plenty, 7 years of famine; God did not change His will
2. Job's life: great abundance to great loss to greater abundance; God remained the same
3. The Great Depression: Americans in third world poverty; now the highest standard of living in the history of the world; God is still God
4. We may not be able to rejoice in our setting, but we can be thankful for our Savior
5. Habakkuk is painting a bleak portrait of the future, but he looks away to God Who is does not change

B. We may not understand God, but we do not need to understand Him in order for Him to keep his covenant - Isa. 55:8-9

1. We can always trust Him to do what is right - Gen. 18:25; Jer. 29:11; Rom. 8:32
2. God is forever in control - Isa. 43:11-13
3. He will always be God; therefore, we can be thankful forever.

II. HIS SALVATION NEVER CEASES

A. Things might go bad in my life, but things do not affect my salvation.

1. Salvation does not depend on things going well. Salvation rests on the grace and power of God
 2. Life is uncertain at best; one phone call or one doctor's visit can change everything, but salvation is unaffected by these things.
- B. Things may get bad here, but this is not our home - Phil. 3:20; 1Peter 1:3-4
- C. Disasters may occur here, but they cannot take away my salvation
1. John 10:28; Heb. 13:5, 7:25
- D. I may lose everything here, but I can't lose what God has given me
1. Isa. 49:14-16; Rom. 8:33, 35, 38-39
 2. God's salvation never ceases; therefore, we can be thankful always

III. HIS STRENGTH NEVER COLLAPSES

- A. Our strength does not lie within us. The Lord is our strength
1. Psalm 27:1; Isa. 40:31; Phil. 4:13
 2. When we are unable to stand, He enables us. When we can't go on, He helps us. When we are in the deep valley; He leads us to higher ground.
 3. "Hind's feet" – speaks of grace, agility and swiftness. "High places" speaks of the mountain tops where the deer is free from the dangers found below.
 4. Habakkuk is telling us that God enables him to rise above his circumstances and that God gives him the strength to stand above the danger to his soul
- B. That is what God did for Job - Job 1:20-21
1. That is what God did for Paul - 2Cor. 12:9
 2. And that is what He can and will do for you and me
 3. God enables His children to stand when their own strength fails; therefore, we can be thankful always

Conclusion:

- A. God is not just our salvation; He is the source of our rejoicing and thanksgiving in a world of sorrow and loss.
1. Isa. 12:1-2; Psalm 118:4-6; Phil. 4:4