



Study 3 of 3: Joy that Comes from Faith

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Scanning

Main Texts: Habakkuk 3:1-19
Other Texts: John 16:17-24; Romans 5:1-5
Readings: Chapter 5, "The Suffering People of God", in Donald A. Carson,
How Long O Lord?: Reflections on Suffering and Evil

Review: The book of Habakkuk is a dialogue between God and the prophet Habakkuk. Chapter 3 is Habakkuk's final response, in the form of a prayerful song (see v19b). Summarise in brief the dialogue from chapter 1-2 (Don't miss the key verses of 1:5-6 and 2:4).

Going Deeper

1. Does God actually ever answer Habakkuk's questions?
2. How would you put the prayer in verse 2 into your own words? What is Habakkuk asking of God?
3. What is the point of the dramatic poetic song in v4-14?
4. In verses 16-18, Habakkuk resolves a couple of things. Noting their context, what makes these two resolutions so instructive for us?
 - How would you define "joy"? Check out John 16:17-24 and Romans 5:1-5.
5. In what way(s) is Habakkuk different at the end of the book compared to the start of the book? What are the crucial parts of his journey?

Applying

6. How will the book of Habakkuk change the way you think and believe and respond in the future?
7. Why is the little book so crucial for your Christian life? Share the best thing you have learnt from these studies.

*"Suffering so unbolts the door of the door of the heart that the Word hath easier entrance."
(Richard Baxter)*