Habakkuk - Worship and Wonder

Our theme throughout this entire series has been “from worry to worship in troubling times.”

We have discovered together that like Habakkuk:

- Sometimes we need to wrestle with God in prayer with the challenges of life.
- We live in a world where both wickedness (evil intent) and wretchedness (the results of sin and the sin nature) exist.
- That there are promises and blessings from God for the children of God to overcome the woes of a fallen and broken world.
- If we live with a worldview that is informed by our faith and the word of God we can overcome.

Habakkuk made this journey and what began as a complaint ended up with a heart that was overwhelmed with worship and wonder! Likewise, we are invited into this journey as well.

Chapter 3! From Worry To Worship

Shigionoth - the musical heading suggests that this chapter should be sung to wild and enthusiastic music! Both Psalm 7 and Habakkuk 3 share a common thematic arc: they begin in deep crisis, turmoil, or fear, and resolve into a passionate declaration of trust and praise to God.

Though the fig tree should not blossom And there be no fruit on the vines, [Though] the yield of the olive should fail And the fields produce no food, Though the flock should be cut off from the fold And there be no cattle in the stalls, Yet I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation. The Lord GOD is my strength, And He has made my feet like hinds' [feet,] And makes me walk on my high places. For the choir director, on my stringed instruments. – (Hab 3:17-19 NASB95)

Today is All Saints Day!

Dating back to the 3rd Century this was a day to honor the lives of the martyrs who gave their lives for the faith. Known as the church triumphant - as the amount of martyrs continued to grow in church history they switched from individual days honoring individuals to a day dedicated to remembering those who gave their lives because of their faith.

Traditional and Historical Accounts (Non-Biblical)

- **Peter**: Crucified upside-down in Rome under Emperor Nero around AD 64, according to early church tradition.
- **Andrew**: Crucified on an X-shaped (diagonal) cross in Patras, Greece.
- **John**: The only apostle said to have avoided martyrdom; he survived being exiled to Patmos and died of old age in Ephesus.

- **Philip**: Traditions vary widely; he is reported by some sources to have been crucified upside-down or martyred in Phrygia/Hierapolis.
- **Bartholomew**: Traditionally believed to have been flayed alive and beheaded in Armenia.
- **Thomas**: Said to have been stabbed or pierced with spears in India around AD 72.
- **Matthew**: Accounts suggest he was martyred by the sword, burned, or stabbed in Ethiopia.
- **James (son of Alphaeus)**: Traditionally reported to have been stoned or thrown from the temple pinnacle and beaten to death.
- **Jude (Thaddaeus)**: Said to have been martyred in Persia, Armenia, or Syria (killed with arrows or an axe).
- **Simon the Zealot**: Various traditions claim he was either crucified or sawed in half in Persia.
- **Matthias** (who replaced Judas): Traditionally reported to have been stoned and beheaded in Jerusalem or Ethiopia.
- **Paul** (an apostle to the Gentiles, though not one of the original Twelve): Beheaded in Rome under Emperor Nero around AD 67. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7]

Other Famous Examples Of The Church Triumphant

Polycarp of Smryna - a disciple of the Apostle John, he was martyred for refusing to swear allegiance to Ceasar.

Justin Martyr - was beheaded along with several other companions because he refused to offer sacrifices to Roman idols.

William Tyndale - he was the first to translate the Bible from Greek and Hebrew into the English language making the Bible available to the commoner for the first time. He was executed as a heretic in 1536.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer - died as a martyr in the final days of WW2.

“We are not a new philosophy but a divine revelation. That’s why you can’t just exterminate us; the more you kill the more we are. The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.” Tertullian 197 AD

Each and every one of these and the hundreds of thousands of Christian martyrs in church history all embraced the worship and wonder of Habakkuk 3.

Worship and Wonder

Pure worship is that wonderful moment when a struggling heart is able to get past itself and give honor and praise to the Worthy One, and he receives the incomplete offerings of that weak vessel with open arms. When it is offered in simplicity and sincerity, one small sacrifice of praise becomes something holy and powerful and pure. Chris DuPre

Worship and Wonder Gives Spiritual Agility

Agility - the ability to move with quickness and with grace. Many professional athletes have skills that allow them to play with great agility.

Habakkuk described himself as someone who by God's strength, has the agility of a deer able to walk upon the high places with great agility.

The Lord GOD is my strength, And He has made my feet like hinds' [feet,] And makes me walk on my high places. For the choir director, on my stringed instruments. – (Hab 3:19 NASB95) ….
as surefooted as a deer, able to tread upon the heights.

Show The Video of the Ibex Deer

The same words are used in 2 Samuel 22 in David's Psalm of Deliverance
"God is my strong fortress; And He sets the blameless in His way. "He makes my feet like hinds' [feet,] And sets me on my high places. "He trains my hands for battle, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. "You have also given me the shield of Your salvation, And Your help makes me great. "You enlarge my steps under me, And my feet have not slipped. – (2Sa 22:33-37 NASB95)

For by You I can run upon a troop; And by my God I can leap over a wall. ... He makes my feet like hinds' [feet,] And sets me upon my high places. ... You enlarge my steps under me, And my feet have not slipped. – (Psa 18:29, 33, 36 NASB95)

Worship and Wonder Brings Spiritual Wisdom

Though the fig tree should not blossom And there be no fruit on the vines, [Though] the yield of the olive should fail And the fields produce no food, Though the flock should be cut off from the fold And there be no cattle in the stalls, Yet I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation. – (Hab 3:17-18 NASB95)

AI and the Biblical Worldview

AI and Worldview

Determine what you stand for before AI exposes what you will fall for. - Carey Nieuwhof

- Read Joe's conversation with AI about an Adam Sandler movie
- Much more serious - deepfakes desensitization to truth. What happens when people don't care about whether something is true or not? Worse yet, what if they prefer the lie to the truth?

  Use AI as a research assistant and check it's references!

In a recent interview of a college professor and the use of the AI, the quote was stated: "AI might help you pass a test, but it won't help you become the man or woman that God has called you to be." When we allow artificial intelligence to influence our beliefs and convictions, we risk losing the very essence of human discernment. While AI can mimic reasoning and generate persuasive arguments, it **lacks the lived experiences, moral grounding and spiritual depth that shape authentic worldviews.** Relying too heavily on algorithms for issues of faith and ethics can result in shallow convictions that are disconnected from personal reflection and genuine understanding

Hinds Feet On High Places

1. **The Call to Escape:** Much-Afraid lives in the **Valley of Humiliation** in the village of **Much-Trembling**. Despite working for the Chief Shepherd, she is crippled, mocked by her Fearing relatives, and facing a forced marriage to her cousin **Craven Fear**. Yearning for freedom and the ability to dance on the **High Places**, she responds to the Shepherd's call and flees. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8]
2. **The Journey and Trials:** The Shepherd gives her two unlikely traveling companions—**Sorrow and Suffering**. As they cross deserts, steep cliffs, stormy forests, and lonely expanses, Much-Afraid repeatedly wants to give up. Along the way, her toxic relatives (like **Pride**, **Resentment**, and **Self-Pity**) track her down to tempt or terrorize her, but the Shepherd and her companions help her press forward. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]
3. **Surrender and Transformation:** At a high mountain summit, Much-Afraid makes a deep emotional and spiritual surrender. Her natural fears and old identity are stripped away. She receives a new name—**Grace and Glory**—and her companions, Sorrow and Suffering, are magically transformed into **Joy and Peace**. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
4. **Return to the Valley:** Instead of remaining isolated in the bliss of the High Places, Grace and Glory chooses to descend back down into the mundane, difficult Valley to share the Shepherd's love, equipped with the agile, enduring "hinds' feet" she was promised. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]