WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

The Book of Habakkuk: When God Seems Unfair

Session 4

Rejoicing In Tribulation

Hak. 3:1-2, 16-19

Series Summation:

When God becomes the all-consuming reality, our problems begin to take their proper perspective to His greatness and ability to handle them!

Habakkuk's response to what God said to him...

Four Acts of Worship:

I.    Let's Begin Our Worship In Adoration (3:2a)

    Vision (2:4-5)

    Corollaries (2:6-20)

    Attributes for Worship

    Self-humility

    Repentance

    (Dan. 4:34-35)

"Herein lies the crux of the situation at the present time. Do we see our need of humiliation? Do we see it as members of the Christian Church? Do we see it as citizens of the nation? We are confronted by a world situation in which we do not know what is going to happen...If our attitude is still one of 'Why does God allow this?', 'What have we done to deserve this?', we have manifestly not learned the lesson Habakkuk learned...In spite of the judgements of God upon us, has there been a humbling? Is there a spirit of repentance?"

Martin Lloyd-Jones

II.    Let's Focus Our Worship On the Kingdom of God (3:2b)

    What do we mean by Kingdom of God?

    God's purpose

    God's program

    Habakkuk's request

    "In our time"

    "In wrath may you remember in mercy"

The question is not whether we have been vindicated or our plans salvaged; it is, instead, has God's rule and reign been furthered or has it been hindered?"

III.    Let's Confess Our Fears In our Worship (3:16)

    Physical symptoms of God's presence (vv. 3-15)

    Trembling body, a heart that wouldn't stop beating wildly, lips that trembled, teeth that         chattered, and bones that felt brittle enough to crumble under their own weight

What place do lament and confession of our fears have in public worship today?

This is not the picture of some sort of super Saint who can handle whatever comes his way. Habakkuk understood all too well what was being told him.

IV.    Let's Celebrate the Joy of the Lord In our Worship (3:17-19)

    What would cause the conditions in verse 17?

    Lev. 26:18-20

    Hag. 1:5-6; 2:16-17

    2 Chron. 7:12-14

    (Scripture makes a connection between the spiritual health of the inhabitants of a country     and the health of the land they occupy).

    "Yet I will rejoice in the Lord"

    Repentance proceeds Rejoicing

    Faith is tested by disaster what we hold dear and destruction of who we hold dear

BECAUSE GOD GOES ON, WE CAN GO ON!