

Daily Devotions

Habakkuk 3 vs 19

What a super ending to this book that speaks so directly into our present experiences. Hab. is elated. He is full of joy and he remembers the words of Psalm 18 v 33 and Dt. 32 v 13. It expresses how he is feeling. He's now a long way from the downcast troubled Hab. we saw in Chapter 1.

Hab. speaks my language! In case you hadn't realised I'm passionate about climbing mountains. My highest was Mont Blanc but Thorpe Cloud in the Peak District has much the same euphoria. Apart from Snowdon, which I avoid like the plague, there is little on top of a mountain except the view, your thoughts and the feeling of being high up! The troubles of the world seem way below!!

At the beginning of the book Hab. was in the depths of the valley. He had issues with God and, in fact, was angry with him. He struggled up the hillside. The going was tough. He battled with the thoughts of God allowing his people to suffer under the Babylonians. He took a rest at the beginning of chapter 2. He stopped battling against God and waited to hear from him. As he approached the summit God revealed himself and his sovereign plan to him and now here he is at the top! He can go no higher so he looks back. His present elation makes his difficult journey take on a new perspective. He'd not appreciate the summit as much were it not for the hard climb.

Of course, Hab's climb was not a physical mountain but a spiritual one! What does he attribute his arrival at the top to? 'He enables me to go on the heights.' It was God who enabled his spiritual view from this spiritual hill top! It was God's word to him that transformed his thinking.

This may have been our experience in the past. We may have gone through difficult and troubled times but can look back with a different perspective. Or we may be going through difficult times right now!

It's the feet of the deer that keeps it fixed securely to the rock and if we continue to rise up on God's word we also will reach the same heights that Hab. did.

Older Christians can look back over the ups and downs of their lives and declare, 'God is my strength.'

Younger Christians look to God as the source of your strength. Listen to the stories of the older Christians.

Listen to the story of Habakkuk.

Daily Devotions Tuesday 11th August

This will be my last devotion. I do hope they have been of some use to you. Apart from a week in July I have done 6 studies a week for the last 4 months. It has been a great blessing to me as I have been forced to dig deeper into God's word for a couple of hours every day. I can recommend it!! The Holy Spirit has definitely been my helper and my guide. I genuinely sense his presence when I'm writing.

We started with Paul's letter to the Colossians whose lifestyle gave Jesus importance but they worshipped other idols in addition. Paul reminded them that Jesus was God in bodily form and that he was head over all authorities and powers.

Ezekiel witnessed his own people become a wicked and corrupt nation in exile in Babylon. He brought a fresh vision of the glory, majesty and sovereignty of God to them. God promised his people a new heart of flesh to replace their hearts of stone.

John 14-17 contained Jesus's last words to his troubled, confused and uncertain disciples on the night before his arrest. He re-assured them that all was going to plan and that the future would hold great promise.

Habakkuk spoke for many of us when he accused God of not intervening in the wicked affairs of the world and was even more perplexed when God's plans to bring judgement by the Babylonians didn't match his own ideas. But his experience of God's word and a fresh understanding left him in awe of God and worshipping him.

Over the months one phrase has kept re-surfacing and has really become the under current theme for all the studies. The phrase, 'I will be their God and they will be my people' (2 Cor. 6 v 16). The phrase first appears in Exodus 6 v 7 when God promises to free his people from the Egyptians. It captures the whole of God's plan throughout history and reaches its culmination in Rev. 21 v 3, where his people truly are freed. The phrase is the backbone of the Bible.

God owns everything. All of heaven and earth are his. All nations, powers and authorities are his. All he has created belongs to him. But he says, 'They will be MY people!' Despite owning everything God declares his people to be special and belong to him in a special way. They are bought with his own blood and can only claim to be his because Christ has redeemed them.

What a privilege that the sovereign creator God calls them his people!!

Are you one of them? Are you sure?