THE BURDEN AND VISION OF HABAKKUK

A message for OUR LAST DAY

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I write this Newsletter with a heavy heart. I’m stirred in my soul as I look around me at what’s going on in our world today. Surely the Coming of the Lord is drawing nigh, it can’t be much longer! I recently read the Book of Habakkuk. I stayed in it for days studying and praying. I believe the Lord laid it on my heart for a reason. He spoke to me and showed me things that I want to share. I want us to focus our attention on the prophet Habbakuk, view this man’s heart and the society in which he lived. This godly prophet finds his place and nich in history around 620 years before Christ was born into our world. As we study this prophet, we will see ourselves in him. We are human just like he was. This man of God was living right and serving the Lord. He was stuck in an evil time, born in the midst of a sick sinful society. Habakkuk was troubled for his whole nation which numbered in the hundreds of thousands whose hearts had departed from the Lord. He hated what he saw going on around him.

From Habakkuk’s Hebrew name we know God had a calling on him. His very name in Hebrew means – “To Embrace and Plant.” In other words he was chosen at birth when his parents named him, to be God’s spokesman, to be an intercessor and stand in the gap for his backslidden people. He came from the Levitical bloodline of people who took care of the Temple and House of Worship. God called this man into the prophetic office. By Habakkuk’s very name, which meant to Embrace and Plant, God placed him right in the middle of his generation to be a light and witness. God was saying to him – O Child of God, I have called you and **Planted** you right in the midst of your people to shine forth my righteousness. You will **Embrace** them and carry them in your heart to me in prayer. I’ve got you right where I want you for a purpose.

Remember, in every generation, God will always have a witness and a voice that will speak His heart to direct and warn the people. Don’t ever think God’s ministers and workers are exempt from the troubles that plague their generation. The problems and pressures, the sins and their ills affect them as well. Good Christian men and women of God are suffering right now right along with the people around them. The people’s problems become their problems, their worries, their sins and suffering lay as a heavy burden upon their hearts. We like the prophet (don’t want to be) are stuck right in the middle of it all So, what are we to do? Let’s read and see!

This little Book of Habakkuk has only three chapters, but it is so eye opening and power packed for our day. It is surely a mirror image of what we see going on in our world now – a very picture of our society! This little book starts off with questions, uncertainty and complaints – The Godly prophet says - Why O Lord, why the evil? Why all the ungodliness and sin? God, don’t you see all this injustice? Why don’t you move? O Lord, why are you so silent and won’t put a stop to all this wickedness and lawlessness?

Have you ever been there dear reader? Lord, will it ever get any better? In this book, God does answer, but we like Habakkuk, must keep praying and waiting on Him. When it looks the darkest and bleakest, we must put our Trust in God whom we serve. Yes, He is aware and He sees it all, but He will take care of His chosen and redeemed. He still rules and reigns. We must realize that we are here for a reason, He has a work for us! In due time, God will answer those who seek Him. It may look meaningless and hopeless now but He will answer. In the end, the Lord will speak and the vision will be made clear. The Victory will come, God will get the Glory and His Church will Triumph.

O the paralell of what we see going on today in our society compared to Habakkuk’s time! Do you want to know what it was like in his society? As this Holy Man of God lived in Judah, the people all around him became so corrupt that their leaders permitted idolatry, immorality and accepted sodomy as a desired lifestyle. The whole first chapter, Habakkuk complains. He’s vexed in his soul and upset with the people and the leaders. Everything is upside down and a horrible sinful mess. Lust of every kind prevailed along with the evil. There’s no peace and it seems like God is a million miles away. Don’t you think this is the picture of our day in America?

Notice how the prophet started off his book: “The **Burden** which Habakkuk the prophet did see. Look at the word – Burden. It’s a load that is heavy upon his heart. O Lord, how long shall I cry and thou wilt not hear**!** Even cry unto thee of violence and thou wilt not save**!**” Notice the two exclamation marks at the end of the two sentences directly above – they are not question ? marks. Habakkuk is not directly questioning God in prayer but he’s wrestling his thoughts inside complaining to himself, but God is hearing him loud and clear! Do you ever wallow in your mind and talk to yourself inwardly when things are bad? Do you feel vexed and angry over the ungodliness you see and hear? When times are bad and things go wrong, we complain within ourselves – This ain’t right! Is God aware, does He even care about His people and all this evil and bad that’s going on? Yes the Lord does care and we’ll understand as we read on!

Listen close: if we’re not careful when things are wrong, we can talk ourselves right out of Faith and Trust. We can keep looking at the situation, listening to and watching others till it fills us with doubt, fear, and depression. We get to the point that we think everything is hopeless, might as well give up on it, or give up on them, it’ll never get any better, it’s useless, the situation won’t ever change. But can I say – don’t give up and doubt out now! (Remember, God had to speak directly to the troubled prophet Habakkuk – (“**The Just shall live by FAITH!”)** It might look like it’s out of control and don’t make sense, but rest assured God will have the final say, He will move and answer in His due time. He is keenly aware of the situation. He sees His Chosen, and knows their situation and needs. His EYE is upon His Blood bought Church in this wicked world! She is His prize Possession, surely a Pearl in this Earth! God has not forsaken her! Like the Prophet, God has Planted us here to Embrace Him in prayer for others and do a work and when it is complete, He will call us out of here, and I don’t believe it will be very long. We must hasten to do His will and finish the work!

Don’t ever forget that Satan is a great distorter! He shows you the bleak and bad. He always paints in black and his aim is to fill hearts with fear. He wants to cause panic - that’s his avenue. We will find out in this book of Habakkuk that there is a remedy for all doubt and discouragement in the time of trouble. The prophet later on in his book found the key that elevated him from the pit of hopelessness and despair. God’s Holy Spirit lifted him up above it all and helped him overcome with victory in his soul! We don’t have to let the ungodliness and fear of our society bind us and take away our Hope and Peace! There is no power that can prevail over God’s people. There is still power in the Blood of Christ and His eternal Word. Our nation and its ungodly leaders in high places of politics cannot annul it, stop it, remove it or ever take it away – It shall stand forever! They’ll never move God from His throne. The media and all the fake news can never drown out the true Faith of God in His peoples’ hearts!

Don’t get discouraged now dear Child of God, it’s almost go home time. Don’t drop your head down, but look up – it will be your Salvation. Your deliverance will come from the Lord which made Heaven and earth. He will be your way out, your way through and over. In the end, you will see just how far the Lord has brought you. Then you will realize He was there all the time, working out His plan. God is your Keeper and always will be! He that started your race and journey of Faith, will finish it! The Lord will soon let the kings and leaders, lawmakers and unbelievers of our generation know that He is God and He is Supreme. He still sits on the throne. He rules and reigns and He’ll take care of His own! Praise God!!

So, back to Habakkuk. He’s having a big problem! His eyes are on all the bad that is going on around him. Lord, this is not fair, where are you? Don’t you see all this mess? He’s sick and tired of it all. The bible does not tell us how long this Man of God struggles in his spiritual and mental state with his questions, fears and frustrations before he really grasps a hold of Faith. It could have been weeks, months or even years before he turned it all over to the Lord. God is telling us all – “you’ve got to let go and turn it all over to me!” You can only wallow something so long – you have to turn loose and trust the Lord you serve!

It looks like we (America) are following the same example today in our sin sick society. It seems that we are experiencing the mystery of the silence of God in the face of human suffering and despair. Injustice weighed heavy on the prophet. Everywhere this Godly man looked, he saw violence, civil unrest and iniquity. The rich were oppressing the poor, the nation’s leaders were running rough-shod over God’s laws (the constitution if you will). The whole land was filled with strife and contention. Within was internal disorder. Does this ring a bell in America today? How far will a nation go away from God? Where is the turning point? What will it take for people to wake up and call on the Lord to save?

We surely live in a permissive society where evil is now good and good is evil and spoken against. Just live it up they say. O how the terminology has changed! Sin use to be ugly, horrible, deadly and would send you to Hell to burn forever! But now a drunkard just has a habit - addicted to drink, a thief is kleptomaniac, a murderer is just a victim of society, he’s just got a mental disorder. Adultery is just having an affair, sodomy is an alternative lifestyle. Today, our laws have no strength because God has been kicked out. Our warped godless society now has no sense of right or wrong because the government cried “Separation of Church and State” and removed the 10 commandments from the children’s classrooms. They stopped and banned prayer. The Bible is no longer taught in the homes, children are not raised in Church, the parents just turn them loose to find their own way in life without the Lord and Godly teachings. As a result, here we are in a state of rebellion, violence, lawlessness and lust of every kind with no moral compass! There’s no fear of God. Sacredness of marriage and God’s love in the family unit is all but gone. Now divorce, drugs, alcohol, pornography has filled the vacuum. Our nation has lost her conscience and unless the people turn to God and pray in this upcoming election, we are on a collision course with judgment and disaster! I pray the Lord comes soon and takes us out of here! I long for my new home. Heaven will surely be worth it all. I believe His return is near. If you are reading this Newsletter and you know deep inside that your heart is not right and you’re not ready, you better hurry and repent and pray now and return to God before it is too late!

The demon hordes of Hell is unleashed on our society. The hedge is down, people have opened the door to the occult by what they are entertaining, watching, and listening to. These spirits have entered peoples’ homes through media, computers and smart phones. Their entertainments have opened a door to Satan’s dark world and these unholy entities are influencing the minds and hearts of the human race. People wonder why they are having problems with their minds and thoughts and evil impulses that sweep over them – you better check your entertainment. You cannot take in the things of this world without getting its spirit! Now on our streets and in the stores and malls - Satan is on full color display, bold and proud. The days of Lot and Sodom and Gomorrah and the days of Noah are here – their spirits have emerged from the abyss and are here, infiltrating and possessing the hearts and minds of people.

Back to Habakkuk: This Man of God that was serving the Lord and was so full of questions and complaining of the evils around him now finally decides to take it all to God and tell the Lord about it. Why dost thou show me iniquity and cause me to behold grievance (meaning sorrow, trouble and misery)? Spoiling and violence are before me. (People are robbing and looting by evil force). And there are they that raise up strife and contention (fighting and tension is everywhere). Habakkuk was saying – the people are divided! Does that sound familiar? Fast forward to our day. There’s racial tension, people battling it out in our streets. We are on the verge of another civil war. Satan and his forces of evil are pitted against God and what’s moral and good! The Liberals and far left is against the conservative right. Politics is being battled out. We are at war in our Nation’s Capital.

The morals are lower than they’ve ever been in our nation’s history. Dignity of human life means nothing. The unsafest place to be is not on a foreign battlefield dodging bombs and bullets, but inside a woman’s womb.You think it’s bad now, if the democratic party gets elected in November, our nation will turn into a slaughterhouse. Kamala Harris whom Joe Biden selected to be his vice president is the most pro-abortion politician ever to be chosen, she believes in abortion up to the time of birth and the baby is starting to enter the world. They (the liberal base) have said they will fill the government seats with gays and lesbians if they are elected to office. They say that if the Democratic party gets in, it will be the most Liberal in the history of our nation. Now is the time to cry and call on God for yourselves and your nation. Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus and save us from the hour that is coming upon this world!

IF THE PROPHET HABAKKUK

COULD SPEAK TO US TODAY

 What do you see O Man of God? O Watchman on the wall, what of the night, what of the night. What is your view of what is coming? If Habakkuk could speak to us today, he would say Hold On! God will answer. You’ve got to wait on Him. When it looks the darkest and most hopeless, you must pray and wait on the Lord! You must Trust Him! The people in my generation were just like yours today. The laws in my day did not protect the righteous. I warned my people that God’s judgment was at hand and the ememy was coming to take them into captivity.

 So, how did you survive O Man of God? What is the key to Victory? What do I do to survive in our critical time? What is the secret to a deep settled Faith inside that will see us through? Is there an answer? Is there a place I can go for protection. Is there hope for us? Habakkuk will tell you in the second chapter **2:1** – this is what I did: I said – I will stand upon my watch and **set me upon the Tower** to see what He (God) will speak to me and what I shall answer when I am reproved. And the Lord answered me and said – write the Vision and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. (That he may run with the good news to tell others!) For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end, it shall speak and not lie; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

 Ancient cities had fortified walls built of stones. These walls were tall and strong and surrounded the city to keep invading enemy armies from entering. They were the city’s defence and stronghold. On top of the wall there was a Look-out Tower that went even higher with an opening back in it. It was the Watchmans’s Observation point. It was here that the prophet went to watch and pray and get a Word from the Lord. As Habakkuk viewed all the landscape of what was going on around him, he listened for God to speak and reveal things to him! It was his place of revelation. He knew that when God speaks, there’ll be spiritual guidance, comfort and strength!

 What this Child of God, Habakkuk said was - “I’ve got to go Higher! I can’t stay down and angry, depressed and discouraged over the people and the condition of my country – I’ve got to go Higher! **I Must go Higher!** I’ve got to get my eyes off them and on God! I’m going up into my Prayer Tower where I always meet with God and let Him speak to me. I’m going up above it all. My answer and Strength is in Prayer! I’m not letting the evils of my backslidden nation take away my Hope and drown out my Love for God. I shall keep my commitment and stedfast Trust in the Lord whom I serve and have served for all these years! Why should I worry when He is my Keeper? I know that He called me and He will guide me with His eye!

 Listen: It’s the devil’s job to cause panic and fill you with dread from bad news. We have heard his voice long enough, it’s time to go to our secret place of prayer and listen to the Lord’s voice. All we need is to hear from Him! In God’s pavilion there is peace. He is our Hiding Place, our Refuge for the weary and oppressed. He is a High Tower from the enemy, a shelter from the storm. The Psalmist David said – In the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge until these calamities be overpast.

HABAKKUK’S PRAYER

 The servant of God pours out a prayer to the Lord from His Tower. **Hab. 3:1** – A prayer of Habukkuk upon Shigionoth. (This was a musical term meaning sadness. In a mournful tone, the prophet cries out to God for his wayward nation) – **2** – O Lord, I have heard thy speech and was afraid: O Lord, Revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known, in wrath remember Mercy.

 Habakkuk realized the only hope for his beloved nation and people was REVIVAL! We’ll have either revival or ruin. There must be a turn-around. He warned them that if they didn’t repent and turn back to God, the enemy from far, an evil host would come and take them all away captive. Have mercy O Lord, have mercy is my cry lest we fall in judgment into the enemy’s hands and he takes us away!

 So, what are you going to do O Man of God while you wait on the Lord? “I’m going to Trust Him to move in this evil time!” As Habakkuk closed out his prophetic book, he said – “I know it’s bad now and it may get even worse, **but I have made up my mind** that I am going to remain faithful and serve the Lord! I shall live by my Faith! The dear Man of God uttered these words that have been the subject of many sermons for thousands of years - **Hab. 3:17** - Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls:

 **18** **Yet** I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

 **19** The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and He will make me to walk upon mine High places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments

 This is our key dear children to sweet victory in our Soul. It’s our Hope in troublesome times. The Psalmist said: **Ps 27:5** For in the time of trouble he shall Hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; He shall Set me up **upon a Rock**.

 **6** And now shall mine head be **Lifted Up** above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD!

 Children, I believe as we eagerly await our Lord’s return, He’s telling us we must go Higher and remain faithful. It may look bleak now but Stay in that High place of prayer and Trust Him and He will keep & strengthen you! Don’t forget – “In the end the Lord will speak, the Vision will be made clear, the Mystery solved, Victory will come, the war will be over, God will get the Glory and His children will Triumph and we will be at Home with Jesus!”

 Keep singing children; it’s almost over - we’re just about Home, it could be any day now! May God Bless, Touch and Keep each one of you my readers!