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"THANKFUL.....FOR WHAT?"Bk. of Habakkuk; Gen. 18:25

INTRO:

A. -Thankful... For WHAT??

1-Who, except perhaps a Charles Dickens" SCROOGE, would say he has nothing for which to be thankful?

We have proclaimed our desire to be thankful by establishing a national holiday for such a purpose. We believe the Bible indicates that we should be GRATEFUL to God.

2-But...FOR WHAT do we give thanks at Thanksgiving time????Thankful.....FOR WHAT??

3-We thank God for LIFE, for in the very beginning God gave life to man. The average span of life is gradually lengthened from 40 years in 1860 to over 80 years today. The world is filled with beautiful things--living plants & living animals. We are thankful for LIFE....But what if thru accident or age, LIFE is extinguished??

4-We are thankful for HEALTH. At no other time in the history of mankind has there been more said & done in the interests of health. We live in a land with more PILLS, more DOCTORS, more CLINICS, more HOSPITALS, & more DRUGSTORES than any other country....And the healed THANK GOD, and rightly so--But what if HEALTH should ebb away??

5-We are thankful for WEALTH. Our average income for every man, woman & child in America today is over \$10,000 per year. In many countries of the world the figure is much lower, such as HAITI, where the \$ 130 per capita income is the lowest in the western hemisphere. Our storage bins & grain elevators burst with surplus. We are able to surround ourselves with more automobiles, more refrigerators, more telephones, more televisions, and we are thankful--but what if we were to become POOR ??

6-We are thankful for LOVED ONES, as well. They bring joy and happiness into our lives. Encouragement & fellowship are found with loved ones. We are rightly thankful for these--But what if we should lose our LOVED ONES??

B. -Thankful-- FOR WHOM??

1-Illus--Some years ago a farmer had a weather vane on top of his barn, with the words "GOD IS LOVE" affixed to it. A passing traveler stopped to question the appropriateness of such a design.

The farmer explained that in his life, "God is LOVE whatever way the wind blows." This simple story demonstrates a truth that many of us desperately need in our abundance of USA today. In reality, OUR REASON

LifeHealthWealthLoved Ones

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We have proclaimed our desire to be thankful by establishing a national holiday for such a purpose. We believe the Bible indicates that we should be GRATEFUL to God.

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4-We are thankful for HEALTH.

At no other time in the history of mankind has there been more said & done in the interests of health. We live in a land with more PILLS, more DOCTORS, more CLINICS, more HOSPITALS, & more DIAGNOSTICS than any other country....and the least THANK YOU, and rightly so--but what is HEALTH should help every?

5-We are thankful for WEALTH.

Our average income for every man, woman & child in America today is over \$10,000 per year. In many countries of the world the figure is much lower, such as HAITI, where the \$100 per capita income is the lowest in the Western Hemisphere. Our standard of living is high. We are able to surround ourselves with more automobiles, more refrigerators, more telephones, more televisions, and we are thankful--but what if we were to become poor?

6-We are thankful for LOVED ONES.

as well. They bring joy and happiness into our lives. Encouragement & fellowship are found with loved ones. We are rightly thankful for these--but what if we should lose our LOVED ONES?

8. Thankful...FOR WHOM?

1-This--some years ago a farmer had a weather vane on top of his farm. With the words "GOD IS LOVE" attached to it. A passing traveler stopped to question the appropriateness of such a design. The farmer explained that in his life, God is LOVE whatever the wind blows. This still is story demonstrates a truth that many of us desperately need in our abundance of USA today. In reality, OUR REASON

for thankfulness is GOD, not THINGS !!

2-If we base our gratitude on things, then when the things disappear, our reason for thanks will be gone, and our gratitude with it. THINGS and OTHERS will fail, but GOD will not fail.

3-God is an absolute, a spiritual fulcrum for existence.

4-Perhaps, then, our question needs to be revised, for in the last analysis, it is not

"Thankful--- for WHAT but rather, it is

"Thankful--- for WHOM? !

5-**PROP:** God Himself must be the basis of thankfulness that is lasting. He gives, but all that He gives is secondary to HIMSELF !!

6-Let's look at a case history

--HABAKKUK

--Called by Gabelein "a MAJOR minor prophet"

7-Outline: I. Problems of Habakkuk-----1:1--2:3
II. Prophecy of Jehovah-----2:4--2:20
III. Praise of Habakkuk-----3:1-19

I. PROBLEMS OF HABAKKUK---1:1-2:3:

A. Problem Of Indifference:

1-The prophet's FIRST QUESTION-----

1:1-4

--Apparent indifference to unrighteousness

--A "burden"=a message of judgment pronounced

--"HOW LONG??"?

--"WHY??"?

** No justice is seen

**The law is slacked

**Violence & immorality are rampant in Israel

--Habakkuk laid his questions before the LORD for his faith is in God

2-Jehovah's Answer-----

1:5-11

● "Behold ye"= "Look around you at the nations"--(1:5)

● "I will work & work"= "I am doing something" !

** God is working in your days

** Count on it TODAY also!!

** Not always discerned day-by-day as to

WHAT God is doing

** Wrongs will be corrected!!

--Message about CHALDEANS (=Babylonians)

● Agent of Divine judgment is named---(1:6a)

● Agent is described----- (1:6b-8)

**Fierce

** Impetuous

** Dreaded

** Feared

** Speedy

** Devouring

● Agent in action----- (1:9-10)

**Violent

** Victorious

● Agent's SIN----- (1:11) Guilty & Proudful

How long?
Why?

"I will raise up
the Chaldeans"

a
b

c

d

for thankfulness is God, not things!!
2- If we base our gratitude on things, then when the things
disappear, our reason for thanks will be gone, and our
gratitude with it. Things and circumstances will pass, but God
will not fail.

3- God is an absolute, a spiritual reality for existence.
Therefore, when our reason needs to be revealed, for in the
last analysis, it is not
Thankful--- for what? But rather, it is

"Thankful"--- for what? 2?
3- God himself must be the basis of thankfulness that
is lasting. He gives, but all that he gives is as
a gift to himself. If
Let's look at a case history

Called by Babylon "a nation without
prophecy"
I. Problems of Habakkuk-----1:1-2:3
II. Prophecy of Habakkuk-----2:4-2:20
III. Praise of Habakkuk-----3:1-19

I. PROBLEMS OF HABAKKUK--1:1-2:3:

A. Problem of Indifference:
1- The prophet's first question
2- Apparent indifference to righteousness
3- A "pagan"---a message of judgment pronounced
"How long?"

4- The justice is seen
5- The law is slack
6- Violence & immorality are rampant in Israel
7- Habakkuk finds his question before the Lord
for the faith is in God

8- Jehovah's answer:
9- "I will look around you at the nations"
10- "I will visit a nation I am doing something"
11- "God is working in your days"
12- "Count on it today also!"
13- "Not always disclosed day-by-day as to
what God is doing"

14- "What will be corrected!!"
15- "Measure of sinners" (=Calvary)
16- "Agent of Divine judgment is named"
17- "Agent is described"
18- "Justice"
19- "Innocent"
20- "Unreached"
21- "Feared"
22- "Society"
23- "Uncovering"

24- "Agent in action"
25- "Agent"
26- "Victorious"
27- "Cruelty"
28- "Agent's sin"

29- "Agent's sin"
30- "Agent's sin"

3

B. Problem Of Inconsistency:

1- WHY does God allow a sinful nation to devour a more righteous one ?? 1:12-17 ??

- This is the prophet's second question

- Perspective of faith

** Faith's affirmation 1:12a

- God's PERSON

** Faith's Acceptance 1:12b

- God's PROGRAM

** Faith's Astonishment 1:13

- HOW ??

- God's PRACTICES

- Wonders if the Chaldeans will go on unpunished & with a high hand forever

(1:14-17)

2- Anticipation of an answer

2:1

- Set a fence around his QUIET TIME with the Lord

- A. R. Faussett-- "When we have prayed to God, we must observe what answers God gives by His Word, His Spirit, and His providence" (P. 627, IV)

- Habakkuk became no longer the WAILING prophet, but is now... the WAITING prophet.

- Anticipated an answer in reply to his prayer.

- Knew in his heart that his attitude was wrong, & that it would be corrected by God

3- Matthew Henry-- "Those that expect to hear from God must withdraw from the world, & get above it, must raise their attention, fix their thought, study the Scriptures, consult experiences and the experienced, continue instant in prayer, and thus set themselves UPON THE TOWER." (IV, P. 1359)

4- Jehovah's Response----- (2:2-3)

- Quick & personal response in 2:2-----

"THEN"

- To be WRITTEN for preservation

- To be plain so that all may know it & share it with others----- READ IT & RUN

- Fulfillment is future, but sure!!

- Prophet's is to WAIT, and as he does, he becomes the WRITING prophet

II. PROPHECY OF JEHOVAH----- 2:4-20

"The Just shall live by faith."
2:4

A.- Class One----- THE UNJUST:

1- 2:4a, 5-19

(Two classes in 2:4)

2- The proud, those whose soul is not right

3- FIVE WOES:--Against Ambition----- 2:6-8

- Greedy usurers

- "Those who bite you"

②--Against Covetousness----- 2:9-11

- Extortioners

Problem of Inconsistency

I W H Y does a man's spirit never to devour a more
famous one (2:1-12) 22

This is the prophet's second question
- Person of faith

1-12

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2-Addition of an answer

2-11

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(2:1-12)

Jehovah's Response

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THE WAITING EXPERIENCE

II. PROPHECY OF JEREMIAH

A. Close the THE WAITING

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- ③ -Against Violence 2:12-14
-Bloody builders
- ④ -Against Debauchery 2:15-17
-Drunken seducers
- ⑤ -Against Idolatry 2:18-19
-Foolish idolators

3-One word of RELIEF in 2:14
about the future is given-----HOPE ahead !!

B. Class Two THE JUST:

- 1-2:4b
- 2-Quoted 3 times in the N.T.
 - ++ Romans-----"The just.."
 - ++ Galatians--"...shall live..."
 - ++ Hebrews-----"...by faith"
- 3-2:20 True & living God is sovereign & so is worthy of worship in a proper fashion
-Worship Him in whose hand the earth and its future lies.

III. PRAISE OF HABAKKUK 3:1-19:

A. Prayer To God (3:1-2)

- 1-upon Shigionoth = "set to enthusiastic & triumphant music" (as seen in 3:19)
 - Shows a CHANGE in Habakkuk !!
 - He has now become the WILLING prophet
- 2-The Word of God has encouraged Habakkuk's heart, though it also strikes fear into that same heart
- 3-Prayer for REVIVAL "in the midst of the years"
+ Desperate need !!
- 4-Wants God to reveal Himself openly so all may understand as Habakkuk now sees--
 - GOD'S PERSON is real in the midst of life's pressures & problems
- * 5-Pleads the promises "In wrath remember mercy"
Ps. 119:49-59 *

B. Power & Presence Of God (3:3-15)

- 1-PAST HISTORY-Days of Abraham recounted 3:3-7
 - ** PERSON--3:3
 - ** POWER---3:4-7
- Days of Moses recalled 3:8-10
- Days of Joshua reviewed 3:11-15
 - ** PRAISE for God's PURPOSE
- 2-PRESENCE of God is what Habakkuk comes to be able to praise God for...God is WITH HIS PEOPLE, even in times of trouble & trial.

C. Pressure (3:16)

- 1-Fear & conviction come to Habakkuk's heart
- 2-Desires to know REST in the day of trouble
- 3-NOTICE-Threat of the Babylonian invasion has not been removed

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↑ Circumstances have not been altered at all
- Habakkuk is now resting as he awaits the trial of the Chaldean invasion

D. - Presentiment — 3:17

- 1-Describes circumstances at their WORST !!
 - 2-Description of what did come to Israel in the Chaldean invasion
 - 3-What attitude does Habakkuk have toward this??
 - God's TRUTHfulness is believed
 - God's FAITHfulness is counted upon
- YET -**

E. - Progress — 3:18-19

- 1-Read 3:18-19
- 2-Circumstances have not changed! But Habakkuk's attitude has...
"IN ACCEPTANCE LIETH PEACE!"
- 3-What was his PROGRESS?? Rejoice....in the Lord, not just in circumstances

FIVE POINTS

- Joy --- in the (victorious) God of my salv.
- My strength --- PERSONAL
- Feet like hinds (deers') feet
- Walk upon mine high places
 - ** of trouble
 - ** of suffering
 - ** of opportunity
 - ** of duty
 - ** of responsibility
 - ** Not in TERROR, but to make progress in life

4-Gen. 18:25 - "...shall not the judge of all the earth do right?"

5-THE JUST shall live by circumstances ??
feelings ???
people ???
• FAITH....in the Lord

6-Beginning of this book-----DESPAIR
Ending of this book-----PRAISE!
In between...

...the Pathway of God's sure Word;
His reassurances !!

CONCLUSION:

A. - Thankful - For What?

- 1-All that God gives is secondary
 - For life
 - For health
 - For wealth
 - For loved ones
 - Not for THINGS, but for God HIMSELF
 - Because things van-

ish from our experience in time....and....

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6

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2-Only God remains changeless & eternal...

....And God is at work today and every day

3-Habakkuk found the true basis of Thankfulness

4-Hab. 3:18-19

5-Modernize that into today's terms

6-When all else fails, GOD REMAINS !! He is the only true basis of Thankfulness.

Have YOU found Him in your life?

7-Thankful, for what?

Thankful, FOR HIM !!

8-In this space age, we also must remember that God is at the helm of our world. Though manned space craft can fly in orbit around our earth and through our galaxy, God is at work, and His wise purposes are being worked out. YES!

His hand does not hang paralyzed at His side. We must credit God with having a PURPOSE. He has an end in view, and He employs all kinds of persons for the accomplishment of His unerring will

9-His will... involves you being THANKFUL

10-Can you say with Habakkuk:

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

11-If so--- Be confident that He will revive
His work (3:2) in the midst of the years !

Because--- "The JUST
shall live
BY FAITH!"

You and I need

** to rejoice in the Lord

** and to live BY FAITH also.

GREAT HYMNS

Come, Ye thankful People	15	526
Thanks To God	119	527
To God Be The Glory	227	449
Revive Us Again		485

Westbrae--11/20/66

Calvary Columbus--11/24/74

A.B.C. Chapel--11/5/76 & 11/18/81

Bethany Baptist Ch., St. Albans, WV--11/14/76

Second Baptist, Ravenswood, WV--11/21/76

IFCA Regional in Indiana--(Tipton) 11/10/81

Lower Falls Baptist Church, St. Albans, WV--11/21/82

IFSA Regional--Kentucky--Mayking--12/7/82

Lookout Baptist Church, WV--11/20/83

Victory Bible Church, Meyersdale, PA--11/24/83

Old Kanawha Bapt. Chl, WV--11/18/84

Grace Gospel Church, Huntington, WV--11/25/84

Grace Fellowship Church, Ephratah, PA - 11/5/86

Oak Hill Bible Church - 11/29/89

Bradley Forest Bible Ch, Manassas, VA - 11/27/88

Belcroft Bible Church, Bowie, MD - 11/26/89