

Crossroads Baptist Church
November 4, 2007 10:00
Habakkuk 3:3-16
Habakkuk Series #10

“Our God The Mighty Warrior”

In our modern religious day, there is a brand of Christians who feel very uncomfortable when we talk about war, battle, enemies, blood. They just never picture God has a warrior, that we are in a battle and that we have an enemy. If that is you, then you are going to be very uncomfortable today because to be true to the Word of God, we have to see a God who is a Warrior.

Let me make three simple statements:

1. As believers in Jesus, we have an enemy.

God knows that He must be a Warrior for His people because He knows there is an enemy that wants to destroy us.

A. The evidence prior to the world even being created.

We believe according to Isaiah 14: 12-15, Ezekiel 28: 11-19 and Luke 10:18 that Satan was an exalted angel but due to uncontrollable pride revolted against God in pre-earth adventure and was thrown out of Heaven.

B. The evidence when the world was created.

From Genesis 3, we see that the serpent was present on the earth to rival the place of God and to replace the position of God.

C. The evidence of Scripture.

From all over Scripture we know that we have an enemy.

I John 5:18-20. In this short passage, John refers to two different type of people; one who is “from God” and “in Christ” (verses 19-20) and those who are a part of “the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.”

The point is that everyone is in someone! Everyone, young and old, male and female, good and bad; belongs to one of the two kingdoms: the kingdom of light or the kingdom of darkness. If one is not “in Christ” then he is “in the power of the evil one.”

Matthew 12:30 “He who is not with Me is against Me,…”

John 10:10 “The thief comes to kill, steal and destroy.”

You either belong to “us” or “them,” there is no third category. There is no neutrality.

The concept of Satan was not manufactured in the twentieth century. Orthodox Christianity has always held the belief in a personal devil (not just an impersonal force). C.S. Lewis wrote: "There is no neutral ground in the universe: every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counterclaimed by Satan" (C.S. Lewis, *Christian Reflections*, Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1967, p. 33).

D. The evidence of living.

No one really has any trouble with the enemy until you become his enemy.

2. We have a Mighty Warrior to lead our fight.

When the children of Israel came out of the Red Sea, they sang a song to the Lord,

“I will sing to the Lord, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea! The Lord is my strength and

song, And He has become my salvation; He is my God and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will exalt Him. The Lord is a man of war; The Lord is His name." Exodus 15:1-3

Only the KJV and NKJV says "He is a man of war." The NIV, NASB and most others say, "The Lord is a Warrior."

Jeremiah 20:11 "But the Lord is with me like a Mighty Warrior."

3. We have a Mighty Warrior because of His past conquests.

A. These past conquests is the foundation of this passage in Habakkuk.

In these verses 8-16, God is pictured as a Warrior and Habakkuk seems to be rehearsing what God has already done in order to booster His faith with the impending invasion of the Chaldeans.

There is a powerful

Let me break this story down in two statements:

1. God stood – verse 6

God stands and measures the nations. He is measuring them for judgment. He knows what is going on in the earth. He makes the earth tremble. The mountains crumble. The hills bow down. He is the Everlasting One. The armies trouble as though they were in affliction.

In this process, he remembers some of the great episodes in Jewish history when God stepped in for His people

Verse 8 - He stepped in at the Red Sea to permit His people to go over on dry ground and stepped back in for the waters to cover the pursuing Egyptian army.

Verse 8 – He stepped in at the Jordan River when it was at flood stage and God permitted them to walk over into the Promised Land.

Verse 11 – He stepped in and caused the sun and moon to stand still in Joshua 10 so they would have more time to fight and win the battle.

2. God marched – verse 12

Habakkuk saw the Babylonians on the march ready to conquer but He also saw His God marching.

These are powerful and frightening pictures of a God dressed in battle gear, upon His house, coming for His enemies with bow in hand.

Verse 9 – He uncovers His weapons and is ready to shoot his arrows.

Verse 11 – He shot His arrows and threw His spears like lightening

Verse 12 – He marched with anger. This is most likely the scene of Israel conquering the nations of Canaan. He had waited patiently for these heathen nations to repent, but they refused so now the time of judgment had come.

Verse 13 – This was done for the anointed people of God to be saved.

Verse 13-15 most likely refers to the conquest of Babylon. They were "stripped from head to foot" and "laid their bones bare." Just as Babylon was sweeping through the land stripping everything and everyone, one day they would be stripped down.

All of this causes two things to happen inside of Habakkuk:

1. He had fear.

Verse 16 clearly indicates he was fearful. We've already looked at this passage so all we'll say is that when you experience God there will be manifestations .

2. He had faith.

Verses 16 – When he comes up, he will invade with his troops.

His faith rises. Because of what God has done, Habakkuk sees God's deliverance in the midst of his current situation.

It is not Satan bringing the Chaldeans, but God. God is still in control and He is still the victor.

This situation is not beyond our Mighty Warrior. When Habakkuk stops looking at the problem and starts looking again at His God, then he is fine.

B. These past conquests are now our foundation for a victorious future.

Since Habakkuk's day, there has been more conquests by our Mighty Warrior.

Colossians 2:15 "(NLT) "In this way, God disarmed the evil rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross of Christ."

(Message) He stripped all the spiritual tyrants in the universe of their sham authority at the Cross and marched them naked through the streets."

Hebrews 2: 14-15 (NLT) "Because God's children are human beings – made of flesh and blood – Jesus also became flesh and blood by being born in human form. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the Devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could he deliver those who have lived all their lives as slaves to the fear of dying."

This promise of victory over Satan came as early as Genesis 3:15 "He will bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

Thank God for the cross where Jesus dealt the final, decisive blow to the serpent.

Romans 16:20 "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you."

Our God, who is a gracious and patient and loving God, will one day come to an end of His patience and when He does, He comes as a warrior to defeat all those who oppose Him.

The old serpent may still be writhing and acting like he's got power, but he is defeated.

Our God is a mighty warrior
Dressed in the armor of light.
Crushing the deeds of darkness
Leadings us on in the fight.
Through the blood of Jesus
Victorious we stand
I will praise Him in the highest place
Throughout the land.

Yes, let's keep singing, "Onward, Christian soldiers. Marching as to war. With the cross of Jesus, going on before."

Jesus is not fighting for you! He has already fought and won.