

Crossroads Baptist Church
October 14, 2007 10:00
Habakkuk 3:3-16
Habakkuk Series #9

“When God Shows Up”

I. The greatest need is for God to show up.

Habakkuk 3:3 “God came from Teman, The Holy One from Mount Paran.” These are references of when God came when God delivered the Law. These two mountains areas formed a natural border.

But God came a fresh in Habakkuk’s life because Habakkuk permitted God to be God.

We do not need God to give us a reason but a revelation of Himself. And when we desire a revelation of God more than a reason, He will show up. And we’ll discover when He does show up that He is everything we need and wanted.

The greatest need of this hour is not to put a Christian in the White House, to have all of Hollywood to be saved and they start producing only movies like “The Passion of the Christ,” or even for the church to reach hundreds of individuals. The greatest need of this hour is for God to show up.

In the Old Testament when the Tabernacle was erected the approval of God was manifested by His presence. When the Temple was erected the same occurred, as recorded in II Chronicles 5, that the presence of God was so strong that the “the house of the Lord was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.” (verses 13-14).

Another reason I can say that is because the greatest indictment against the people of God is when the presence of God is withdrawn. I Samuel 4:21 it was stated that they named a child Ichabod, because “The glory has departed from Israel!”

During Ezekiel’s day he saw the glory of God in the Temple but then he saw it disappear.

The glory has departed from America, but that is not the saddest statement, the glory has departed from many of our churches. The church today looks more like an entertainment center than a worship center. The church’s success is judged more like a business with the bottom line than with the Word of God. People come to church wanting it to last an hour so they can mark their spiritual card never expecting the Lord to show up in power and glory.

Oh, we need God to show up.

Oh the prayer of Isaiah 64: 1 “O That You would rend the heavens, that you would come down, that the mountains might shake at Your presence.”

II. The Glory of God will be revealed when He shows up.

A...The glory of God will result in praise

Verse 3 tells us that His glory was revealed because the Holy One came down. When God shows us, His glory is revealed.

Notice the descriptions of his revelation:

- He is called “the Holy One.” – verse 3
- His kingdom is so great it covers the heavens and the earth. – verse 3
- brightness was like the morning light; - verse 4
- rays flashing from his hand;
- fire at his feet.

And when His glory is revealed, our response is praise.

The glory of God will be revealed in power

1. His power was revealed in the earth.

- Pestilence was released – verse 5
- Mountains shook – verse 6
- Hills bowed down
- Mountains trembled
- Deep uttered its voice
- Deep raised his hands on high
- Sun and moon stood still
- Spear was glittering

2. His power was revealed against the enemies of God.

God is pictured as a Warrior here.

- Struck the head – verse 13
- Thrusted his arrows – verse 14
- He walked through the sea with horses – verses 15

- He will invade them with his troops – verse 16

I will not say more at this point because I want to preach another message on this topic in two weeks.

3. His power was revealed in believers. – verses 16

Look at Habakkuk's response in verse 16 – he was trembling at the wrath of God.

I was afraid when I first experienced the holiness and power of God because I was a sinner and lost.

One of the most repeated phrases from the lips of God from the Old to the New was “be not afraid.” Why? Because when people really encounter the power and person of God, there is initial fright.

Revelation 1: 17 “When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid;”

I am afraid when I think about what God can do to America. I am afraid when I think of what God can do to wayward sinners.

Hebrews 10:31 “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

But it is also a fearful thing, in a different way, when the power of God comes on you. I have fallen prostrate, I have become speechless, I have cried uncontrollably, I have felt so weak that I was afraid to try to stand lest I fall. Oh, the power of God.

Daniel was given a vision of the pre-incarnate Christ. He saw Christ. And when He did, this is what he wrote in Daniel 10:8 “No strength was left in me. My radiant appearance was fearfully changed.” The original language there says, “My splendor was changed to ruin.”

Peter said, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” Luke 5:8

It confounds me how we can be so flippant, so trite, so casual in the presence of a holy God. We say we experience God but then as soon as the final “amen” is said, we start talking about football, the weather, grandkids, lunch plans. I'm not being critical, I'm just saying we didn't experience God in all of His power or you wouldn't.

When we experience the real glory and power of God, you will be changed. You will never get over it. If you are not changed, then you didn't experience it.

When's the last time you trembled at the presence of God? Has the knowledge of God and His ways ever made you stop dead in your tracks? It may not happen every time you open the Bible, or go to church, but it should happen.