



Part 4: Waiting on God's Ultimate Glory

Habakkuk 2:14; 3:2-4

Because of the promise of God's ultimate glory, we wait in radical trust while boldly asking for his glory to reign and for his goodness to prevail.

Habakkuk was a prophet who lived in the final days of the southern kingdom with the rising threat of Babylon's conquest on the horizon (612 BC). There is much injustice, corruption, and idolatry in Israel. And in God's judgement, He raises up Babylon against them. Habakkuk cries out in the style of a lament to God and in his lament we see how he lives in response to the glory of God. It reminds us of how we should live in response to the glory of God.

The Promise of God's Ultimate Glory

- Hab. 2:14, "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." – in the whirlwind and chaos of the world, the rise and fall of empires, the earth one day will be filled with the glory of God.
- "Glory" – Hebrew word *Kavod* - the root of the word means weight or heaviness. From that root we get the sense of significance, gravitas, honor, fame, and reputation.

"What is the glory of God? It is who God is. It is the essence of His nature; the weight of His importance; the radiance of His splendor; the demonstration of His power; the atmosphere of His presence." - Rick Warren

- Glory of God - Exodus 33, – "Now show me your glory." And the Lord said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name." The first thing that is associated with God's glory is his goodness. Exodus 34:6, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not

leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

- The promise reference Numbers 14:21, Isaiah 11:9, Exodus 9:16 – new heaven and new earth which is inaugurated by the second coming of Jesus. Whatever the world goes through, we know the end of the story, God’s glory reigns, His goodness prevails. Our world suffers anger, pain, hunger, strife, and wars. Our culture groans under despair, depression, anxiety, loneliness, and deep confusion. And yet we know the end of the story that God’s glory reigns, His goodness prevails.
- This changes everything – ‘Imagine Heaven’ John Burke

Radical Trust

- From this promise of all surpassing glory, we see the radical trust of Habakkuk.
- Habakkuk’s prayer, Hab. 3:17-18 – “Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are now sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my savior.”
- What radical words. It is not until things are taken away from us do we realize where our ultimately trust lies. Struggles with our kids, financial strain, relational struggles, or a health crisis. Do we continue to say, “yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my savior.”
- Habakkuk’s radical trust in God because of God’s all surpassing glory. The strength of our trust is not in ourselves but in the object we trust. So, the greater sense we have of the all-surpassing glory of God, the greater trust and faith we will have.

Boldly Ask

- Habakkuk 3:2-4, “Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath(judgment) remember mercy. God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran. His glory covered the heavens and his praise filled the earth. His splendor was like the sunrise; rays flashed from his hand, where his power was hidden.”
- Habakkuk knows God’s judgement is upon Israel and they are about to be ravaged by Babylon and taken into captivity. And yet, he boldly ask God to repeat His awesome deeds in their day, in their time make them known. He desires that just as God faithfully and miraculously rescued Israel out of captivity, that He would do it again. That He would make his glory known again.
- Do we pray like Habakkuk? Do we live for God’s fame? Do we stand in awe of His deeds? Do we desire for God to make Himself known? What is our bold ask for God’s glory to reign and his goodness to prevail?

Discussion Questions

- How have you understood God’s glory? Is there a time where your tangibly sensed the glory of God? What was it like?
- How does knowing and experiencing the all-surpassing glory of God help you to trust God?
- What is your bold ask? How do you want God’s glory to reign and his goodness to prevail in your life and others?