

HABAKKUK

Living by Faith in Troubled Times

The sovereign Lord is my source of strength Hab. 3:19



This prayer was sung by the prophet Habakkuk: ² I have heard all about you, Lord. I am filled with awe by your amazing works. In this time of our deep need, help us again as you did in years gone by. And in your anger, remember your mercy. Habakkuk 3:1,2



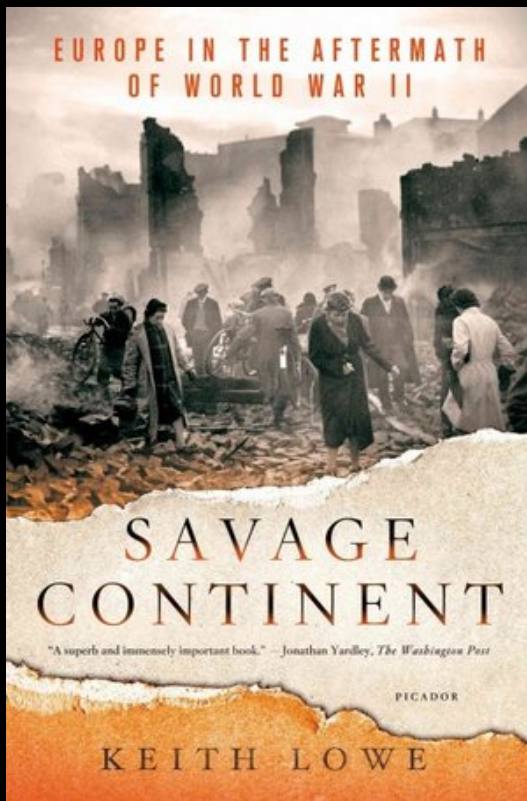
¹⁶(Yet)I trembled inside when I heard this; my lips quivered with fear. My legs gave way beneath me, and I shook in terror. I will wait quietly for the coming day when disaster will strike the people who invade us.

Habakkuk 3:16



¹⁷ Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, ¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation! ¹⁹ The Sovereign Lord is my strength! He makes me as surefooted as a deer, able to tread upon the heights. Habakkuk 3:17-19





Keith Lowe writes:

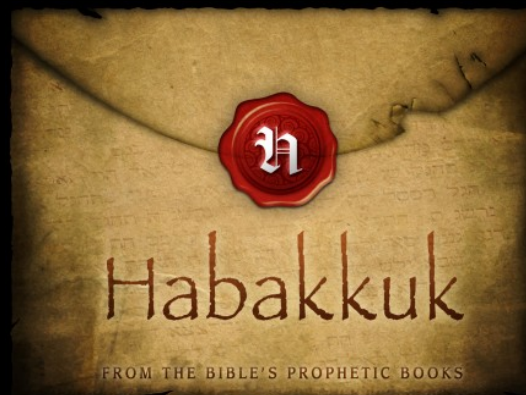
Imagine a world without institutions. No governments. No school or universities. No access to any information. No banks. Money no longer has any worth. There are no shops, because no one has anything to sell. Law and order are virtually non-existent because there is no police force and no judiciary. Men with weapons roam the streets taking what they want. Women of all classes and ages prostitute themselves for food and protection. This is not the beginning to a futuristic thriller, but a history of Europe in the years directly following World War II, when many European cities were in ruins, millions of people were displaced, and vengeance killings were common, as was rape.

1. *What is rejoicing in suffering?*

¹⁹The Sovereign Lord is my strength! He makes me as surefooted as a deer, able to tread upon the heights.

Habakkuk 3:19

The Lord God is my strength,
and He has made my feet like hinds' *feet*,
and makes me walk on my high places.



Romans 5:1,2

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. ² Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

Romans 5:3-5a

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. ⁴ And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. ⁵ And this hope will not lead to disappointment.

Romans 5:3-5a

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop **endurance**.⁴ And endurance develops **strength of character**, and **character strengthens our confident hope** of salvation.

⁵ And this hope will not lead to disappointment.

2. When does rejoicing in suffering happen?

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quivered with fear. My legs gave way beneath me, and
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I will wait quietly for the coming day when
disaster will strike the people who invade us.

Habakkuk 3:16b



17 Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, **18 yet I will rejoice in the Lord!** I will be joyful in the God of my salvation! Habakkuk 3:17,18



Job 1:22

Job arose, he tore his garments, he fell on the ground and cried out. Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.

Job 13:15

"Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him."

An open book with text on the pages, serving as a background for the quote. The book is open, showing two pages with dense text. The lighting is dim, and the colors are muted, giving it a classic, scholarly appearance.

2 Samuel 12:18

"On the seventh day the child died. David's attendants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead... He may do something desperate."

2 Samuel 12:19,20

"Is the child dead?" he asked. "Yes," they replied... Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped."

2. Here's why it's possible to rejoice in suffering.

We are confident that God is able to orchestrate everything to work toward something good *and beautiful* when we love Him and accept His invitation to live according to His plan." Romans 8:28 (Voice)

Romans 8:29 (NLT)

“For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.”

Romans 8:30 (Passion Translation)

"Having determined our destiny ahead of time, he called us to himself and transferred his perfect righteousness to everyone he called. And those who possess his perfect righteousness he co-glorified with his Son!"

Romans 8:31,32 (Passion Translation)

"So, what does all this mean? If God has determined to stand with us, tell me, who then could ever stand against us? ³² For God has proved his love by giving us his greatest treasure, the gift of his Son. And since God freely offered him up as the sacrifice for us all, he certainly won't withhold from us anything else he has to give."

Romans 8:33,34 (NIV)

"Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us."

Romans 8:35 (NLT)

"Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?..."

Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

Gospel of
John 16:33



Romans 8:31 (Passion Translation)

" If God has determined to stand with us, tell me, who then could ever stand against us? "

Romans 8:37 (Voice)

"But no matter what comes, we will always taste victory through Him who loved us."

