



SAFE HARBOR

A Publication of Cove Fellowship Ministries

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VOLUME 17.1

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2019

Words of Encouragement

Habakkuk 3:17

**Though the fig tree should not blossom,
nor fruit be on the vines,
the produce of the olive fail
and the fields yield no food,
the flock be cut off from the fold
and there be no herd in the stalls,
¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD;
I will take joy in the God of my salvation.
¹⁹ GOD, the Lord, is my strength;
he makes my feet like the deer's;
he makes me tread on my high places.**

Habakkuk was perplexed. His faith was troubled and strained. He worshipped YHWH and looked upon Him to be the protector of Israel. And yet the Chaldeans were at the door ready to destroy and pillage the Promised Land and its people. So he challenges YHWH.

Habakkuk is a prophet in a land that has turned its back on God. They have forsaken the Sacred Covenant, resulting in the Law being paralyzed and justice being perverted. This is a recurring problem in Israel from the time of the judges into the time that Habakkuk is living. The people have supplanted God and turned to worship the idols of politics, wealth and power. The time to pay the price for their rebellion is upon them.

Reading through this short portion of Scripture you will find the call for answers to his bewilderment. Was not Israel chosen especially by God? Did God not promise protection and security? Why were these conquering hordes being unleashed upon the land? And most important why are the impending evil being visited upon the children of Israel?

But his questions are never really answered. Nor is he given understanding as to the why of history.

If you will mark the following verses, 2:1; 2:14; 2:20 as well as the verses quoted above you will find that the answer is in the person of the Almighty. One can only trust and be faithful to the Great I AM. In Him alone can we find salvation from the litany of woes and troubles of our world.

It sound simplistic and even irrational but those who enter into the Covenant of Faith must live in faith with the secure knowledge that God does work and gives a peace beyond our comprehension. Jesus explained that the Father in Heaven makes His sun rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the just and the unjust. So we all stand in the watch tower and rejoice in the Lord, taking joy and strength to rise above the evils of the world.

You see experience shows that when adversity strikes our reaction is to immediately start praying to have things changed in the manner to which they approve. But this might not be in accordance with the plans of God. For it is through adversity that our faith is made stronger and we emerge from the trials closer to God.

So we must stand at the watchtower and look not at the terrors below but rather to the Lord above to see the wonders of his love.

Reflections

People have a tendency to take the path of least resistance in their walk of faith. Too often we give a lip service to our faith instead of embracing the reality that as Christians we have a calling to reach out and bring the love of a loving God into this world of woe. Instead we determine to not make waves or seem to be a fanatic or even to be beaten under so as not to appear to be bigoted or unloving.

But we, as children of the Spirit, neglect the very mission that Jesus has set before us as the physical presence of the Holy Spirit in this world. “And when he, the Holy Spirit, has come he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgement.” (Jn. 16:8) As Christians we are the witnesses of these things and should be convincing our world of the consequences of living in an abandoned relationship with the Creator.

In our lives we witness by the living within the new birth in Christ; showing that while we were sinners Christ died for us. We bring God’s love into our lives, not a nebulous feeling but a manifestation of the loving Father. Our witness must stand strong in love and through the power of the Spirit bring conviction of sin and righteousness and judgement. Only, if convicted, then can people realize the saving love of God and the forgiveness of sins and the new life.

As part of the people of faith we must always be aware that it is by our love that we will be known. There have been too many acts of hatred and rejection that have been centered in the church. There is also an attitude of superiority rather than of servanthood on the part of Christians. The disrespect that we feel from the world we have earned. Jesus said, “Come unto me you that are burdened and learn of me for I am meek and lowly of heart and you will find rest for your souls”. That we would learn of this truth and practice being meek and lowly of heart for then we can witness to the rest of our souls to a struggling world.

You can follow Cove Fellowship at www.billlangservices.com , email to **covefellowship@verizon.net** or on Face Book at **CoveFellowshipMinistries**.

Also a footnote:

My book of poetry, **Midnight Musings: Thoughts from a Restless Mind**, is available on Amazon and also Amazon Kindle. Your patronage and thoughts would be appreciated.