



Photo: Our Daily Bread

HOPE THAT HOLDS

I will rejoice in the Lord; I will be joyful in God my Savior.
Habakkuk 3:18

READ Habakkuk 3:11 - 19

"I know Daddy's coming home because he sent me flowers." Those were my seven-year-old sister's words to our mother when Dad was missing in action during wartime. Before Dad left for his mission, he pre-ordered flowers for my sister's birthday, and they arrived while he was missing. But she was right: Dad did come home—after a harrowing combat situation. And decades later, she still keeps the vase that held the flowers as a reminder to always hold on to hope.

Sometimes holding on to hope isn't easy in a broken, sinful world. Daddies don't always come home, and children's wishes sometimes go unfulfilled. But God gives hope in the most difficult circumstances. In another time of war, the prophet Habakkuk predicted the Babylonian invasion of Judah (Habakkuk 1:6; see 2 Kings 24) but still affirmed that God is always good (Habakkuk 1:12–13). Remembering God's kindness to His people in the past, Habakkuk proclaimed: "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 no 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" (3:17–18).

Some commentators believe Habakkuk's name means "to cling." We can cling to God as our ultimate hope and joy even in trials because He holds on to us and will never let go.

By James Banks

PRAY & REFLECT

Father, thank You that come what may, my future is bright with You! Amen

How does rejoicing in God help you in difficult times? What can you do to praise Him today?

SCRIPTURE INSIGHT

The context of Habakkuk 3:11 - 19 is Habakkuk's prayer in verse 2: " Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord. " The prophet implored God to perform such mighty acts once again. Included among these miracles for the benefit of God's people are the plagues against Egypt (v. 5; see also Exodus 7 - 13), Gideon's victory over Midian (Habakkuk 3:7; Judges 6 - 7), the stopping of the sun in the sky as Joshua's army fought the Amorites (Habakkuk 3:11; Joshua 10:12 - 14), and the deliverance of the Israelites through the Red Sea (Habakkuk 3:15; Exodus 14). Habakkuk had an appropriate fear of his powerful God, and he knew he could trust Him to the end in any circumstance (Habakkuk 3:16 - 19). – By **Tim Gustafson**

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