

How To Pray (Habakkuk 3: 1,2)

- We have an account of prophet's prayer: more than just asking God for things
- Includes essential characteristics of: praise, thanksgiving, recollection, adoration
- Recalling God's deeds in the past, the prophet prays for God to do it again.
- Vs 2 teaches us what our attitude should be toward God in times of trouble
- Prophet shows an attitude of **repentance** as in Daniel 9: repentance & sorrow

I. Humility

- Vs.1 note Habakkuk no longer argues and questions God as before
- He accepts and acknowledges God's judgement as right, it's well deserved.
- There was complete submission, no defence of Israel- frank admission of guilt
- He embraces God's holiness and justice: "**to us belongs confusion of face**"
- Why the change? He stopped thinking of Israel as better than the Chaldeans
- He focused on holiness and justice of God against background of sinful world
- Our problem, look at immediate problem, need to see all in light of a holy God.

II. Adoration

O LORD I have heard - report of you & your work, O LORD, do I fear

- Habakkuk was afraid at what God would do, he knew what God said to him
- He realised the almighty holiness of God, and he said, I was afraid
- In God's presence two things become apparent, His holiness and our sin
- Through the blood of Jesus we approach a Holy God, still in reverence and awe

III. Petition (Phil 4:6)

- True prayer always has the elements of: humiliation, adoration, petition
- Note Habakkuk's petition: no sparing of Israel from war! Only God show mercy
- He knows judgement is inevitable but he prays God revive YOUR work
- "**In the midst of the years**" while terrible things are happening, Lord, revive it
- Touching plea "**in wrath remember mercy**" we're getting our just desserts
Lord
- Only while you are judging, act like yourself, show mercy, oh merciful God
- In your righteous judgment, temper your wrath with mercy (1 Chron 21:13)
- Message: need to humble ourselves forgetting other people e.g. who are worse
- See ourselves as God sees us lost, helpless, until then there is no peace, no Jesus