

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



“The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.” Mt 4:16

No Matter What, Rejoice in the Lord

Habakkuk 3:16-19



Introduction

The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw.

O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will not save? Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. (Hab 1:1-3)



Introduction

Habakkuk complained and questioned God.

How can God allow the Babylonians to destroy Judah?

God assured Habakkuk that the Sovereign God who had worked powerfully in their past is still the Sovereign God of the present and the future.

Introduction

Habakkuk responded in chapter 3 and ended with the declaration that no matter what happened, he would rejoice in the Lord and trust in Him.



In the Face of Calamities

I heard and my heart pounded, my lips quivered at the sound; decay crept into my bones, and my legs trembled. Yet I will wait patiently for the day of calamity to come on the nation invading us. V16



In the Face of Calamities

When we have deep and serious troubles, suffering and calamities coming upon us - we complain, despair and give up. It is almost impossible to rejoice and to continue to trust in God.

Examples of our troubles



Even When Losing Everything

¹⁷Though 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, ¹⁸yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior.



Even When Losing Everything

When we lose something, it can be so painful and difficult.

When we lose many things, it can be unbearable.

When you lose everything, what is there to live for?



Yet I will Rejoice in the Sovereign Lord

¹⁸yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior.

¹⁹The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights.



Yet I will Rejoice in the Sovereign Lord

Yet I will rejoice in the Lord. I will be joyful in God my Savior. V18

- How can this be possible?

Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.

Phi 4:4

He is my Savior and my Sovereign Lord V19

No matter what happens, He is still the Sovereign Lord.

Yet I will Rejoice in the Sovereign Lord

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling Ps 46:1-3



Yet I will Rejoice in the Sovereign Lord

The Sovereign Lord is **my strength**; he makes **my feet like the feet of a deer**, he **enables me** to go on the heights. V19



Yet I will Rejoice in the Sovereign Lord

I am terribly weak. But when my Sovereign Lord holds my hand and carries me, I become strong.

Others would have collapsed under the calamity. But in the Sovereign Lord we can stand up and go up the heights. And we will be rejoicing in Him.

*They are brought to their knees and fall,
but we rise up and stand firm. (Ps 20:8)*

Yet I will Rejoice in the Sovereign Lord

The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights. V19



Joni Eareckson Tada

1967 - terrible accident

2010 - cancer

Conclusion

The Savior has come! In the midst of suffering and storms, let us continue to trust the Lord, hold on to Him, and experience His strength to go up the heights, rejoicing in Him.



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!