

"The Lord, my Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like those of a deer and enables me to walk on mountain heights." Habakkuk chapter 3 verse 19

This is the final verse of the prophecy of Habakkuk in the Old Testament. Two chapters earlier, he has come to God with some deep and troubling questions. He has been considering the state of the world and noticing its violence, corruption, oppression, injustice, strife and conflict. The law of God is ineffective, because wickedness restricts every attempt at righteousness. We read this and think that Habakkuk might well have been looking at our world today.

So he continues to lament the troubles of the world under the domination of the corrupt and wicked, and asks God why he allows such people to flourish, considering that "Your eyes are too pure to look on evil, and you cannot tolerate wrongdoing. So why do you tolerate those who are treacherous? Why are you silent while one who is wicked swallows up one who is more righteous than himself? Are we beginning to become interested in the answer he might get yet? Thought so.

Habakkuk makes a decision. "I will stand at my guard post and station myself on the lookout tower. I will watch to see what he will say to me and what I should reply about my complaint." Is God able to answer these difficult questions for us? Of course he is. We need to be alert and listen with humility.

God gives Habakkuk a vision. There is an answer to come. It may seem a long time coming for us, but it will come. It is God's assurance that no act of wickedness, cruelty, greed, oppression or injustice will go unanswered. Each one will reap its consequence when God finally judges the earth.

So Habakkuk goes away answered. He would have liked to see a resolution now, as we would today, but he is willing to wait for the time that God has chosen, though he may not see it in his lifetime, and though he may have to live his life faithfully in a world characterised by wickedness. "Though the fig tree does not bud and there is no fruit on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though the flocks disappear from the pen and there are no herds in the stalls, yet I will celebrate in the Lord; I will rejoice in the God of my salvation!"

## Prayer

Father, I have to be realistic. I live in the same world that Habakkuk lived in, and I see the same evils. If I am honest, I see the echoes of the very same things in my own heart. We all get weary sometimes, Lord, wondering when the troubles of this world will come to an end, but thank you for your assurance that they will, and it will be satisfactory. Help us all to wait patiently, faithfully and in humility for all those times when you bring resolutions to our questions. In Jesus' name, amen.

*All these devotionals can be found on our website [inghamitechurch.org](http://inghamitechurch.org) on the 'Resources' page. Click on the link to go there.*