

"The Midterm Election Blues"

I am writing this almost a week before the 2026 Midterms. I'm absolutely sure that many of you will be devastated regardless of the results. I'm wondering if we will even have all the results in by today.

I wanted to write this early so you can see this lesson of Scripture and not accuse me of overtly politicizing. Now, I make no claim to being apolitical. I have opinions – very strong opinions. I don't think any Christian can afford to be without opinions when so many social/political issues are clearly moral/spiritual issues as well.

I wonder if I will feel optimistic or devastated when the votes are counted? You are probably wondering the same thing.

So, I want to remind you of a sermon I preached just before we voted in 2018, another year of Midterm Elections.

Habakkuk, a contemporary of Jeremiah, was a prophet who was in ministry during dark days in Israel. Adrian Rogers compared his day to ours: "It was a time of national calamity, when everything that wasn't nailed down was coming loose, and the devil was pulling nails. We have ANARCHY in the nations, APOSTASY in the churches, APATHY among the people, and we wonder why people do the things they do."

Habakkuk 1:1-3: *The oracle which Habakkuk the prophet saw. How long, O Lord, will I call for help, and You will not hear? I cry out to You, "Violence!" Yet You do not save. Why do You make me see iniquity, And cause me to look on wickedness? Yes, destruction and violence are before me; Strife exists and contention arises. therefore the law is ignored and justice is never upheld. For the wicked surround the righteous; therefore justice comes out perverted.*

Habakkuk 2:1: *I will stand on my guard post and station myself on the rampart; and I will keep watch to see what He will speak to me, and how I may reply when I am reproved.*

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Habakkuk 3:2, 13, 17-19: *Lord, I have heard the report about You and I fear. O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy.*

You went forth for the salvation of Your people, for the salvation of Your anointed. You struck the head of the house of the evil to lay him open from thigh to neck. Selah.

Though the fig tree should not blossom and there be no fruit on the vines, though the yield of the olive should fail and the fields produce no food, though the flock should be cut off from the fold and there be no cattle in the stalls, Yet I will exult in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength, and He has made my feet like hinds' feet, and makes me walk on my high places. For the choir director, on my stringed instruments.

I. The Plight of the Prophet
The problem is that after elections we often allow results to steal our joy, to silence our song, to embitter our spirit. And that my friends, is a sin. Habakkuk is a minor prophet, but his message is a major one. He was a Patriot who loved God, loved his people, and loved his country. His problem was that it appeared that God wasn't answering prayer. The Hebrew words in verses 1 and 2 indicate the prophet is crying and shouting. He was perplexed, and he was in agony.

II. There Was a Problem He Couldn't Resolve (Chapter 1)
• He didn't understand why Heaven seemed to be silent.
• He was grieved over the extent of sin in Judah and throughout the world.
• He didn't understand why God was allowing the agenda of Hell to appear to succeed.
• He didn't understand why God was using people who were more wicked (by comparison) to hurt people who were less wicked, or were even believers.

III. There Was a Perspective He Had to Realize (Chapter 2)
• "Write the vision" - remember the reliability of God's Word! Anchor your world view on God's promises. Asaph explained in Psalm 73 - "I thought living righteously was useless, but then I went into the House of God—and I began to understand!"
• "The just shall live by faith." We do not take progress reports from this world! (Romans 1:17, 24-32)

IV. There Was Praise He Had to Recover (Chapter 3)
• Habakkuk knew the battle for a nation is won with the help of praise! The reason for this is because worshipping God puts everything in life back into perspective. In 3:17-19, he recovered his song!

Remember Loved Ones, whatever the results: God's got this!

I love you,
Pastor Stephen
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