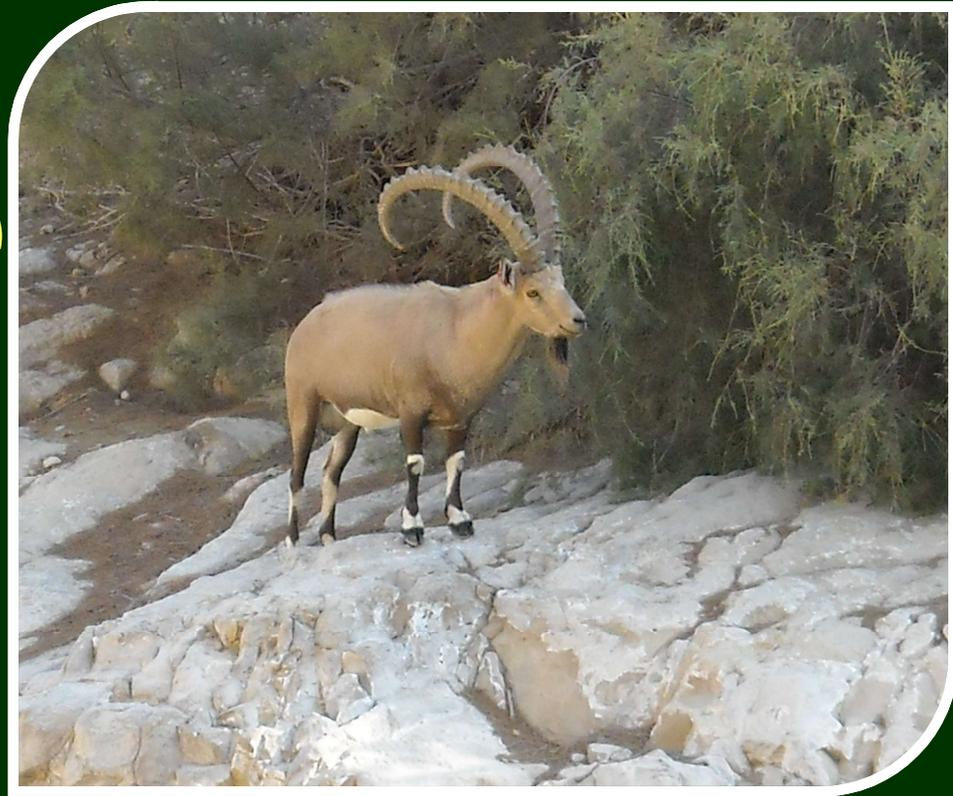


How to Overcome Difficult Times



Habakkuk 3:17-19

Habakkuk

The Prophet

- From Judah, the Southern Kingdom
- Around 600 Before Jesus
 - Time of Jeremiah, The Prophet
 - Time of The Babylonian Exile

Habakkuk 3:17-19

17 Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls-

18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

19 The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, And He will make me walk on my high hills.

The State of the Union

- The nation has forsaken God
- Immorality is rampant
- Idolatry is widespread (worship of false gods)
- Indifference has taken over
- Greed & Oppression everywhere
- Lies, Corruption & Deceit are the norm

There are a few righteous but not many. Most have fallen away into sin, complacency or idolatry.

**The nation is decaying right before his eyes!
Sound familiar?**

Raises Some Tough Questions

- God, when are you going to do something?
- God, when are you going to answer my prayers?
- God, when are you going to stop the wicked?
- God, when are you going to deliver the righteous?

How long is this gonna last? How bad is it going to get?

Why??? When??? How???

Hello, are You listening??? Are You there???

Hope & Faith Under Attack

When difficult times linger & even intensify our faith & hope often take a beating.

God's Solution

I'm going to send the Babylonians
to bring judgment on my people.

Be Real...

Sometimes, God's answer & timing is just not what we want to hear.

God is Good!

- So much of moods and even our faith is based upon circumstances.
- But what about when things go bad – is God still good?

Trust

- We are called to trust that God is good and at work, even though we may not see it or understand it.
- We are to trust God through the best of times and even the worst of times.
- We are called to trust that God is too loving to be unkind and too wise to be wrong.

Job 2:9-10

9 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!"

10 But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Habakkuk 2:4

"Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; but
the just shall live by his faith.

2 Corinthians 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Habakkuk 3:17

Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls-

Habakkuk 3:18

Yet I will rejoice in the
LORD, I will joy in the
God of my salvation.

Trust in Jesus

=

Peace

+

Joy

Joy

- I will rejoice in the LORD
rejoice = jump for joy
- I will joy in the God of my salvation
joy = spin around and be glad

Instead of complaining, he's praising!

Habakkuk 3:19

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