Habakkuk - Commentaries by Henry Allan Ironside

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, May 18

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“O Lord, revive Thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy” — Habakkuk 3:2.

GOD is always ready to visit His people in blessing and grant revival and spiritual refreshment when they judge their sins in His presence and cry to Him for the deliverance they need. Oh, that we today might be stirred to realize the great need of the whole Church of God, so that there would be a mighty cry of entreaty going up to the throne, accompanied by an honest purging ourselves from all known sin, and a true returning to the place of obedience to His Word! Who can say what blessed results might yet be vouchsafed to His people, and what the glorious effects might be upon a godless world outside?

—A. Midlane.

Daily Sacrifice, May 23

“Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation”— Habakkuk 3:17, 18.

IN the beginning of the chapter the prophet prayed for revival and blessing. Here, at the close, he speaks as a revived man lifted above all circumstances and enabled to rejoice in the Lord. Though the dark clouds of war and desolation are hovering over the land, he finds his joy not in temporal things but in God Himself. This is as it should be, for there is nothing in this scene that can satisfy the human heart or give lasting pleasure, but at God’s right hand there are pleasures forevermore which fully answer to all the yearning of the soul.

—W. Cowper.

Daily Sacrifice, May 22

“For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry” —Habakkuk 2:3.

IN the tenth chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews, the writer quotes this verse from the Septuagint Version, and shows us that it was really the coming of the Lord that is in view, declaring that, “He that shall come will come, and will not tarry.” This is our hope and confidence. The Lord Jesus Christ is coming again. When He returns He will put down all iniquity and reign in righteousness, giving to this poor world at last perfect government, and thus giving to mankind that peace which the angels predicted when He came the first time—a peace which mankind rejected and which therefore can never be known until He Himself reigns as Prince of Peace.

—Lyte.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, May 17

“Art Thou not from everlasting, O Lord my God, mine Holy One? We shall not die. O Lord, Thou hast ordained them for judgment; and, O mighty God, Thou hast established them for correction. Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest Thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest Thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?” —Habakkuk 1:12, 13.

IN the first four verses of his prophecy Habakkuk complains of the iniquity and violence which were so manifest. Jehovah’s answer is given in verse 5 to 11. He has seen it all, and judgment is soon to fall. He is about to raise up the Chaldeans for the chastening of His people. In the remaining verses of the chapter the prophet protests against the use of so wicked a nation to punish Judah. He is perplexed that the Holy One should sanction such a procedure. For the moment there is no answer from God, so Habakkuk takes his stand upon the watchtower, waiting until the enigma may be solved. At last the answer comes— “The just shall live by faith.” The righteous man has to trust God, assured that He will make all plain at last.

Then the voice of God speaks in majesty, showing that He does not approve of the wicked, but though He will use an evil nation as a rod, when He has accomplished His purpose it too shall be dealt with, and God will be glorified.

This moves the prophet’s heart to prayer and subdues his distressed spirit, as set forth in chapter 3, wherein he pours out his soul in supplication for his people and expresses the most blessed resignation to the will of God.

—Annie Johnson Flint.

Daily Sacrifice, May 21

“O Lord, how long shall I cry, and Thou wilt not hear! even cry out unto Thee of violence, and Thou wilt not save! Why dost Thou show me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance? for spoiling and violence are before me: and there are that raise up strife and contention”—Habakkuk 1:2, 3.

THIS is the cry of a soul in perplexity. Habakkuk saw iniquity apparently triumph on every hand; righteousness had fallen in the streets: sin and evil were manifest everywhere. Was God indifferent? Had He forgotten His afflicted people? How often have we known similar experiences only to learn at last that God never overlooks anything; that His eye is upon all the ways of the children of men, and in His own due time He will manifest Himself in omnipotent power. Let conditions be as they may we should trust and not be afraid, assured that none can turn aside His will.

—Annie Johnson Flint.

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