Habakkuk - Commentaries by Unknown Author

Christian Friend: Volume 6, Fragment: Habakkuk 2:20

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When abiding in the presence of God, we have not an evil, or an over-abundant speech. “The Lord is in His holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him.”

Questions and Answers on Scripture: From the Bible Treasury, Bearing of the Last Clause in Hab. 2:2

Question: Hab. 2:2. What is the true bearing of the last clause? There seems some confusion in the quotation of it that one almost invariably hears. Is the Synopsis or Dr. Pusey right in their view? They say that “he who runs may read it,” i.e. that it was to be written so plain as to be read by the hasty glance of one that hurried by. Is it really so? Q.

Answer: There can hardly be a doubt that most versions are right, but the commentators wrong, even those who have rendered the Hebrew correctly. The translation of Isaac Leeser, generally correct, is here faulty and in accord with the common mistake, “that every man may read it fluently.” Is the misunderstanding due to the influence of popular misquotation? For the word is written plainly, not “that he who runs may read it,” but “that he who readeth it may run” —just the opposite. The inference may be merely that the reader need not stop; but may it not be the more worthy one of earnestly pursuing the work of making known the revealed purpose of Jehovah for others also to profit thereby? When the crisis comes, as we are told by another prophet, many shall run to and fro, and knowledge (surely of a spiritual and higher sort than of the stars or of the fossils, of chemistry or of electricity) shall be increased. Assuredly the need of that is as great as it is all-important.

Christian Treasury: Volume 4, Habakkuk

The prophet Habakkuk gets up into his watchtower and strikes the keynote of the gospel: "The just shall live by faith." He gets into the presence of God, and only watches for what He will say. He had not a single thing besides and he says. "If you want to be justified it must be by faith." This did not alter Habakkuk's circumstances, but his soul being occupied with the secret of God was kept at rest.

One who has faith takes God's estimate -does not look for the evidence of his own senses, but says, "Let me hear what God says, He must be true." What God says will come into constant collision with what is in myself, but I have to say, "Let God be true and every man a liar.”