

## **Habakkuk 3:17–19 "Rejoicing in Empty Fields"**

### **An Unexpected Joy**

In 1993, the famous singer Johnny Cash lost his home in a fire. Everything inside was destroyed — letters, music, memories. But when people asked him how he felt, he calmly said, “It’s just stuff. None of it’s ever been the source of my happiness.” That kind of response is surprising. Most people would be angry or heartbroken. But Johnny Cash had already faced many losses in life, and he had learned that joy doesn’t come from things.

That idea is exactly what the prophet Habakkuk shows us in the Bible. He lived in a time when his nation was falling apart. Trouble was coming, and there was nothing he could do to stop it. But even in the middle of that, he said something amazing: “Yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.”

### **When Everything Falls Apart (Habakkuk 3:17)**

Habakkuk describes a world that is breaking down. There are no figs, no grapes, no olives, no food in the fields, no sheep, and no cattle. In his time, these things were not just luxuries — they were necessary for life. It would be like someone today saying: “Even if I lose my job, my home, my savings, and my health...”

This is not just a bad day. It’s a total disaster.

But Habakkuk doesn’t hide from the truth. He is honest about the pain and the loss. And that’s important. Real faith is not pretending everything is okay. It is trusting God even when everything is not okay.

### **Choosing to Rejoice (Habakkuk 3:18)**

After listing all the things that have gone wrong, Habakkuk says something powerful: “Yet I will rejoice in the Lord.”

The word “yet” is small, but strong. It means: “Even so.” It shows us that joy is a choice. Habakkuk is not happy about his situation, but he still finds joy — not in his blessings, but in God Himself.

He calls God “the God of my salvation.” The Hebrew word for salvation here is yeshuah — the same word that would later become the name of Jesus.

Habakkuk didn’t know the full picture yet, but he trusted that God would save.

We now know what Habakkuk could only hope for. Jesus came to take the punishment we deserved, so we could be rescued.

Because of Jesus, we can have joy that doesn’t depend on our situation. If we have Christ, we have everything.

### **Strength from the Lord (Habakkuk 3:19)**

Habakkuk goes on to say that “God, the Lord, is my strength.” Not only does God give joy — He gives strength. He doesn’t expect us to handle hard times on our own. He lifts us up when we’re weak.

Habakkuk gives a picture: God makes his feet like a deer’s, able to walk on high and rocky places.

He would have seen how mountain deer could climb dangerous cliffs without slipping. That’s what it feels like when God holds you up in the middle of fear, loss, or uncertainty.

He doesn’t always take away the hard path — but He gives you the strength to keep walking.

### **Hope That Lasts**

At the end of the chapter, we learn something surprising: this whole prayer was meant to be a song. It was written for others to sing together. That means Habakkuk wanted God’s people — even in their fear, even in their sadness — to lift their eyes and worship.

The fields may be empty, but the tomb is empty too — Jesus is alive. That means no matter how dark things seem, hope is not lost. God hasn’t changed. He is still good. He is still strong. And He is still enough.

We don’t rejoice because we are strong. We rejoice because He is.