Favourite BoB? Hab. Why? So relevant - quotable – easy.

Hab’s story:

* Living in Judah – God’s ppl – God’s place - /well.
  + 1:2-4 – violence – destruction – injustice – bad ppl winning. And God doesn’t appear to be listening.
  + Might say same today – UK – violence – fear – strife – conflict. And why does God allow it?
    - Maybe resonates with you v personally: your family – work – how long Lord? Where is God in my struggle?
* God replies v5-11
  + Don’t worry Hab - there’s a plan: Send Bab to wipe you all out.
    - Incredibly powerful war machine (v8)
    - Laugh at your defences (v11)
    - So be afraid (v7)
* Hab: /quite what I had in mind.
  + Know you are the eternal, holy God. (v12) So why do you tolerate them (v13) – worse than us!
    - Please deal w sin – at least deal with theirs – much worse than mine. Leave me alone to enjoy mine. But condemn them!
  + We might say similar: Sure I admit UK is pretty bad – getting worse – deserve divine judgement – but surely not Islamic terrorism – even worse!
* Lord replies again: ch 2 – they’ll get what’s coming to them too. Justice will prevail.
  + v20: The Lord is holy, so shut up and watch.

Ch 3: Habakkuk prays. Long, beautiful prayer – set to music (shigionoth, selah, end v19). 1 verse:

**3:2** Lord, I have heard of your fame;

    I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord.

Repeat them in our day,

    in our time make them known;

    in wrath remember mercy.

Break down:

**Lord, I have heard of your fame;**

* Looking back – history – heard of your fame – done amazing things in past – name is great – God’s achievements in past still resonate today.
  + v3-15 poetry recalling some of God’s great victories in OT: Crossing Red Sea, Flood, Conquest of Canaan, Goliath?
  + All heard stories of great & wonderful events in past – times of great spiritual renewal – churches full – reason why SoT is full of ch. There have been moves of God here – thousands swept into Kingdom in months.
    - Mow Cop – 5 Methodist chapels[[1]](#endnote-1).
  + Now houses – shops – gyms – climbing wall now – but we can see the history – heard of your fame Lord.

**I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord.**

* Awe: defn
  + Element of fear – some translations – “I was afraid”
  + Jesus calmed storm – afraid – stillness - don’t upset him!
    - Hab has a healthy sense of the otherness of G - /mate – Yahweh – God – King – ruler.
  + I’m in awe of all you’ve done – all you are.

When we say that, what are we doing? Worshipping – giving him his worth – God you are great.

* Great way to start in prayer.
  + Acts 13:2 – 5 men gathered to pray – fast – worship – and God spoke and sent them off on a new mission to spread the gospel to Europe.
  + w/o worship, prayer can be a shopping list
    - Start w worship – remind ourselves of who God is - /room service - /slave - /servant.
  + Worship gets us in the right place to pray effectively.
    - Lord’s prayer: “Our Father in heaven…hallowed be your name”
    - **Hebrews 12:28-29** let us … worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our ‘God is a consuming fire’.
  + Is that your attitude when you come to pray – church – do you want it to be?
    - Things that interfere – going on – family – children – job – money – health – get that. But do you desire that intimacy with him?
    - When we meet on Fri to pr – spend plenty of time in worship too – right & good – focus.

**Repeat them in our day,**

**in our time make them known;**

* Do it again, Lord. Heard the history, but now, please Lord, do it again. I want to see you glorified, honoured like that - in my generation – like you have before.
* Germany, 1727[[2]](#endnote-2):
  + *A sense of nearness of Christ was given to us all at the same moment. What the Lord did in our town for the next 3 months is inexpressible. The whole place appeared to be a visible tabernacle of God with men.*
* Wales, 1904:
  + The house was often so full of the divine presence that ungodly men trembled, terror-stricken…
* Australia, 1905:
  + Manifestations of the divine presence and power were marked and felt by all present.
* Edinburgh, 1906:
  + Quite suddenly, upon one and another came an overwhelming sense of the reality and awfulness of his presence and of eternal things.
* Great Yarmouth, 1921:
  + The entire town is in the grip of the presence of God. Local paper: “God has come very near.”
* Ulster:
  + The time came for dismissal [end of the service]…but the congregation were heedless about the hour of the night. The day brightened but still they remained, exhorting, praying, praising the Lord. They did not leave the spot until 5 in the morning.
* Madras, 1941:
  + 3 hour sermons commonplace – it was unbelieveable – no man could have brought it about; only God could create such a hunger for his word.
* Cornwall, 1814:
  + Service started on Sunday morning and the Holy Spirit was present in such power that the meeting could not be closed until the following Friday morning. During the course of that week, it was claimed that 2000 ppl professed X.
* Duncan Campbell: “In revival, time doesn’t matter.

Repeat them in our day,

    in our time make them known;

* + Say that? Desire of your heart? Want to see him move in power?
    - Some given up hope. Never happen.
  + Jesus: **Matthew 5:6** Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness and they will be filled.
    - Praying along these lines on Fri eve.
* Hungry for more of God in X?
  + Maybe v personal to you: God moved powerfully in your life once – past – you can look back to a time – satisfied with God alone. Hungered for righteousness – filled.
  + Other things come in now. Heart was a carefully tended garden – but now weeds have sprung up – choking the plants and flowers.
    - Weeds: responsibility – family – health – sin – cares of this world
    - Garden you once so carefully cared for and tended – now overgrown – beauty of that garden seems like a distant dream.
  + Start weeding. J: Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well
    - Some need to respond to this – need to put your garden in order – change priorities. Be prayed for.
    - Do it again Lord.

**…in wrath remember mercy.**

* Eh? To Hab – remembering God’s mighty acts of the past – fame – more often than not were acts of judgement.
  + Remember where we started: Judah – violence – injustice. God’s solution: send Bab to destroy.
    - Awesome deeds of God are /always pleasant. This gets to the heart of prayer.
  + Hab knows this – knows Bab invasion that’s coming will bring appalling suffering – hardship to his ppl.
    - Saying: bring it on – but be merciful too. Why?
* B/c your glory – fame – holiness – are more important to me than my comfort.
  + If your name is being dragged through the dirt by my ppl, /allowed to continue – bring it on Lord. Your fame is more impt than my life.
  + It’s that exact zeal – C19 – missionaries all over world w gospel – many to death – many to see very little success.
    - The glory of God is more vital to me than material comfort. You mean more to me than earthly things.
  + Is the glory of God the thing that drives us? I’m sure every one of us here would love to see revival of God’s church – churches full. But even that we can ask with wrong motives.
    - Look around the world as a Xn – inc hostile – culture clash – no fun being in the middle of that – feeling like an outsider at work – feeling like if you say what you really think you’ll be mocked – or fired.
    - So it’s easy to pr: Lord, bring our nation back to you – fill the churches – coz then I won’t feel so left out – /mocked at work any more - I’ll be respected – then my life will be easier – then I’ll be in the majority.
    - Lord, bring revival so I’ll be more comfortable!
  + Easy isn’t it! But for Hab – knows the glory and fame of God will result in judgement on his own ppl – bring hardship – says bring it on anyway – worth it.
    - b/c glory and fame of God is what matters most.

All he says is “remember mercy”

* Be merciful to us Lord - /treat us as our sins deserve.
  + Standing on good ground when he says that. Knows the character of God: slow to anger & rich in love. Knows that God is merciful as well as just.
  + God has his ppl (3:13) and loves them.
* Ultimate demonstration of that justice & mercy:
  + God will always do justice – every sin punished – penalty: death. Genesis 2
  + But God loves his ppl too. Sent his own son – whom he loved - to die in the place of sinners – to bear the punishment we deserve – to receive my penalty – wrath of God.
    - And I go free: mercy. Know that forgiveness?

*Examine ourselves:*

* *Concerned more about the state of the world than the state of your souls?*
* *Concerned more about my comfort than his glory & fame?*

1. <http://www.thepotteries.org/chapel/009.htm> [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. All examples from *Revival*, Brain Edwards. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)