



No Grapes on the Vine
(Habakkuk 3:16-19)

Habakkuk was a prophet who lived in the last days of the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Judah was invaded by Babylon in 604 B.C. This conversation with God seems to be shortly before that date.

Most Old Testament prophets spoke to the people on behalf of God. This exchange is Habakkuk speaking to God on behalf of the people.

A brief PARAPHRASE of this short
Old Testament book:

Habakkuk

1:2 – Lord, I don't think you're listening to me!

1:3-4 – Evil abounds in my country, and you're not doing anything about it!

LORD

1:5-11 – I am going to do something about it, but you won't like it. You won't believe it when I tell you, but here it is. I AM SENDING THE BABYLONIANS OVER TO DESTROY YOU. They're good at that sort of stuff! You won't need to complain about "evil" in Judah, because Judah will be gone!

Habakkuk

1:12-17 – You're right. I don't believe it because THEY are more evil than WE are! That would be unjust. Crazy! That would be the fox guarding the henhouse! You, O Lord, are too pure to allow something that absurd!

LORD

2:1-20 – I can use any resource I choose to deal with any problem I choose. Of course, the Babylonians are wicked. But that's my problem, not yours. I'll deal with them according to my time and choosing. You will just have to trust me on this. In fact, that's all I expect of you. I insist that you live by faith. That FAITH will be your righteousness.

Habakkuk

3:1-19 – In that case I just need to shut my mouth, quit complaining, and actually trust you. So that is what I WILL DO. Even when my circumstance is chaotic and confusing, even when my resources are gone, even when I am afraid. I will have such faith that it causes me to REJOICE IN THE LORD and be JOYFUL IN GOD MY SAVIOR.

(3:17) Though the fig tree does not bud,
and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails and the
fields produce no food,

Though there are no sheep in the
pens and no cattle in the stalls,

(3:18-19) YET I will rejoice in the Lord
and be joyful in God my Savior.

The Sovereign Lord is my strength.

He makes my feet like the feet of a deer.

He enables me to walk on the mountain
heights.

3:16

I have **heard**... (accepts reality)

“Hard times are coming” > **fear**

3:16

I will **wait**... (more to the story)

“Justice will come” > **faith**

(3:17) Though... complete disaster and
hardship [financial/physical]

(3:18) Yet... triumph and delight
[spiritual/emotional]

GOD is in the “yet.”

“YET” is a tiny conjunction but it contains the miraculous power of God.

*It means that the odds can be defied and the will can be victorious over any circumstance!



A **buoy** cannot be intimidated by any depth or sunk by any wave for one simple reason. It is filled with air. This has nothing to do with its shape, size, color, or composition. This has nothing to do with the water being tranquil or terrifying. Because of what it has on the inside, a buoy says, “**YET I will float.**”