



# Thanksgiving 2020

Habakkuk 3:17-19 Psalm 100 Luke 17:11-19

November 25, 2020

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This is certainly been one of the most unique years that any of us have ever seen.

Covid has interrupted our lives in many ways:

- ⇒ We can't go anywhere without a mask or face covering
- ⇒ We are suspicious of anyone who sneezes or coughs
- ⇒ We have anxiety about getting the virus; and if we get it, how serious will it affect us?
- ⇒ Our favorite restaurants have been shut down or relegated to carry-out only
- ⇒ We have family members and beloved friends in nursing homes that have been in lockdown and virtual prison for the last 9 months
- ⇒ Worship has been curtailed; some churches remain closed
- ⇒ Much of School has been online classes; and even now, kids on campus need to wear masks during the day
- ⇒ Travel has been restricted
- ⇒ Vacation plans have been scrapped

⇒ If you get too close to someone and they end up with Covid, you are in a **14 day timeout**, *or should I say “quarantine”*

**Covid has interrupted our lives  
in many ways!**

*In some ways,*  
we might feel like Habakkuk  
in the Old Testament times.

He was living at the end of Judah’s history; perhaps around 600BC.

It looked like the powerful Babylonians  
were coming to destroy Judah;  
and indeed, **they did come.**

They would sweep through Israel,  
capture Jerusalem,  
and exile the people.

It was bleak,  
their lives were interrupted  
and changed forever.

Habakkuk the prophet describes it like this:

**The fig tree does not bud  
and there are no grapes on the vines,**

the olive crop fails  
and the fields produce no food,  
there are no sheep in the pen  
and no cattle in the stalls  
HABAKKUK 3:17

## **THAT'S BLEAK.**

Maybe you are feeling like that this year . . .

- maybe tonight you are sick and tired of Covid
- maybe it has been a tough year for you;
- maybe you are feeling worn out and fatigued;
- maybe your heart is weary, worried, or stressed;
- maybe your spirit is beaten down or depressed;

Maybe you are not *feeling* very thankful tonight.

The evil in our country;  
the controversial election;  
trouble at work,  
difficulties in your vocations;  
issues in your home;  
health changes,  
or problems with relationships ---  
they all can make you *not feeling* very thankful.

One of the things that THANKSGIVING does  
is that it REMINDS US  
to look beyond the stress in our lives,

*and see God's good hand in it all.*

God is greater than our problems;  
our troubles come and go,  
but the Lord remains forever.

**A Godly, Biblical perspective  
is invaluable.**

*The world changes;  
but the Lord remains  
faithful, steadfast, and unchangeable.*

Even Covid will die out,  
and life will get back to normal.

**Nothing** that happens in this world;  
Or in this country  
Or in your life  
can ever change God's promises.

He remains in full control over all things.  
He remains loving, kind, and good to you.

**He is Your Father,**  
who watches over every detail of your life,  
and promises to use His mighty power  
for your good

**He is Your Savior,**  
who has taken your sin and guilt

upon Himself,  
and He carried them through death  
and into a grave,  
so that they would never ever be seen again.

**He is Your Comforter,**  
who comes alongside of you  
to strengthen you  
and bring stability to you  
through God's Word and Promises.

*God is greater than our problems;  
our troubles come and go,  
but the Lord remains forever.*

Habakkuk understood this,  
and that was his message to the people of Judah.

The inspired prophet wrote:

*I will rejoice in the LORD,  
I will 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 tread on the heights.  
HABAKKUK 3:18-19*

**You are free to rejoice in the Lord  
and be Joyful in God your Savior!**

You are not a slave to the world nor your problems!

You have been set free in Christ!

What is true for Habakkuk and the Israelites  
is true for you as well!

I will rejoice in the LORD,  
I will 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 tread on the heights.  
HABAKKUK 3:18-19

*"Rejoicing and joy"*

are much more than simply feelings.

They are attitudes and mindsets  
that come from a deep faith in God  
and unwavering trust in His Word.

The Holy Spirit gives you these gifts of joy!

*You are free  
to rejoice and be joyful  
because God is still your  
Father, Savior and Comforter!*

God's Good Hand is at work in your life  
And He creates thankfulness and joy that  
permeate your heart!

Be renewed in your faith  
and trust in God's care for you:

I will rejoice in the LORD,  
I will 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 tread on the heights.  
HABAKKUK 3:18-19

Amen!

## Prayer

**God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, on this Thanksgiving Eve, we are thankful**

- + for all that You give us from your love, grace and mercy**
- + for all that You do for us in Christ our Savior**
- + for all that You teach us through Your Holy Word**

**Lord we know and believe that all good gifts come from you;**

**We Thank You for your presence, power, and protection that we see in our lives.**

**We Thank You for delivering us from worldly influences and dangers of life.**

**We Thank You for dwelling within us and making us holy and godly people.**

Lord today we thank you for all good things that you generously give to us: food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, work, money, goods, families, good government, good weather, peace, health, friends, neighbors, and our church family. **Lord your blessings are clearly seen in our lives; let our praise and thanksgiving be clearly seen in our lives and on our lips --- not just at Thanksgiving, but every day as live and move and have our being in your abundant grace and mercy.**

We pray this in the Name of Jesus our Savior who has taught us to pray ...

### **LORDS PRAYER**

#### **Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed by Thy Name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy Will be done,  
on earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil,  
for Thine is the Kingdom,  
and the Power and the Glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

#### **Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord  
look upon you with favor and give you peace.