



"We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ."

Col 1:28

"Living Above the Circumstances"

Habakkuk 3:16-19

Aug. 23, 2026

Hab 3:16-19

16 I heard and my inward parts trembled,
At the sound my lips quivered.

Decay enters my bones,
And in my place I tremble.

Because I must wait quietly for the day of distress,
For the people to arise who will invade us.

17 Though the fig tree should not blossom

And there be no fruit on the vines,

Though the yield of the olive should fail

And the fields produce no food,

Though the flock should be cut off from the fold

And there be no cattle in the stalls,

18 Yet I will exult in the Lord,

I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.

19 The Lord God is my strength,

And He has made my feet like hinds' feet,

And makes me walk on my high places.

For the choir director, on my stringed instruments.

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I. Circumstances: Part 1

"Because" – here is the reason for his distress.

The Chaldeans are going to invade Judea, and there is nothing I can do about it but wait for it to happen."

*We pray . . . and we wait and we trust God."

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I. Circumstances: Part 1

Physically stressed out.

1. "sick feeling in his gut"

בֶּטֶן *beten* (beh'-ten) - stomach, chest.

רָגַז *ragaz* (raw-gaz') - quake, shake, violent emotion, tremble.

2. "his lips quivered" – difficult to even talk.

3. "he felt as though his bones were in a state of decay. He was becoming weak and wasting away."

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II. **Circumstances” Part 2**

The Chaldeans would destroy the land:

Figs

Grapes

Olives

Grain

Sheep

Cattle

- Look at the aftermath . . .

Lam 4:9-10

9 Better are those slain with the sword
Than those slain with hunger;

For they pine away, being stricken

For lack of the fruits of the field.

10 The hands of compassionate women
Boiled their own children;

They became food for them

Because of the destruction of the daughter of my people.

Lam 5:17-18

17 Because of this our heart is faint,

Because of these things our eyes are dim;

18 Because of Mount Zion which lies desolate,
Foxes prowl in it.

Lam 2:12

12 They say to their mothers,

"Where is grain and wine?"

As they faint like a wounded man

In the streets of the city,

Lam 2:20

20 See, O Lord, and look!

With whom have You dealt thus?

Should women eat their offspring,

Lam 4:1

4 The tongue of the infant cleaves

To the roof of its mouth because of thirst;

The little ones ask for bread,

But no one breaks it for them.

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III. **Life above the circumstances.**

- Habakkuk's physical state is now contrasted with his spiritual state.
- In spite of his circumstances, Habakkuk chooses to live above them.

“exult” . תִּצְחַל ^(aw-laz') - to jump, spin around.

- Joy is available to all believers. God has an inexhaustible supply for you.

“We will never be free from discouragement and despondency until we know and walk with the very fountainhead of joy....The ability to rejoice in any situation is a sign of spiritual maturity....No matter what the climate is, what the troubles are, what the difficulties are, there is joy for the child of God, because joy is produced supernaturally by the Holy Spirit in us.”

- Billy Graham

"By the time Babylon was through with the land of Judah, there wouldn't be much of value left. Buildings would be destroyed, treasures would be plundered, and farms and orchards would be devastated. The economy would fall apart and there would be little to sing about. But God would still be on His throne, working out His divine purposes for His people. Habakkuk couldn't rejoice in his circumstances, but he could rejoice in his God!"

- Warren Wiersbe

"Our joy is in proportion to our trust. Our trust is in proportion to our knowledge of God. To know Him is to trust Him. To trust Him is to triumph and excel. May we be led into fuller knowledge and so find fuller faith and so enter into fuller joy."

- G. Campbell Morgan

"Joy is the flag that is flown from the citadel of the heart when the King is in residence."

18 Yet I will exult in the Lord,

I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.

III. Life above the circumstances.

- Why can we always rejoice? BECAUSE NO ONE CAN TAKE AWAY OUR SALVATION.
- We can lose everything and everyone and have literally nothing, but we always have our salvation, which is of infinite value.
- Look at the examples in the Bible . . .

The Bible is filled with examples of believers going through difficult times, all within the plan of God –

- **Joseph** – thrown into a pit and sold.
- **Daniel** – thrown into lion's den.
- **Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego** – thrown into a furnace.
- **Esther and Mordecai** – put their lives on the line.
- **Job** – lost everything.
- **Habakkuk** – lost everything to the Chaldeans.
- **Martyrs in the Tribulation** – lost their lives.
- **Disciples** – lost everything and gave their lives.
- **Paul** – lost everything.

Heb 11:36-38

36 and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment.

37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated

38 (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.

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IV. Living the life of the Ibex.

- How are we able to live above the circumstances of life?
- By God's strength.

Eph 1:19

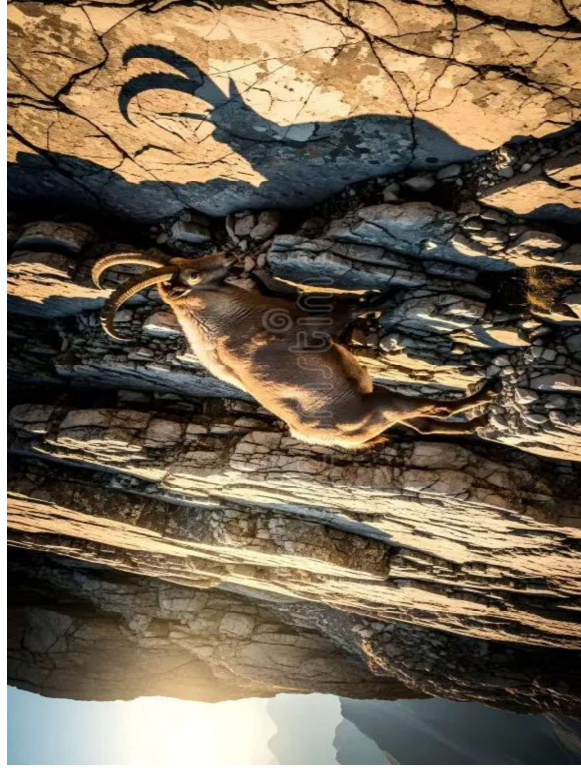
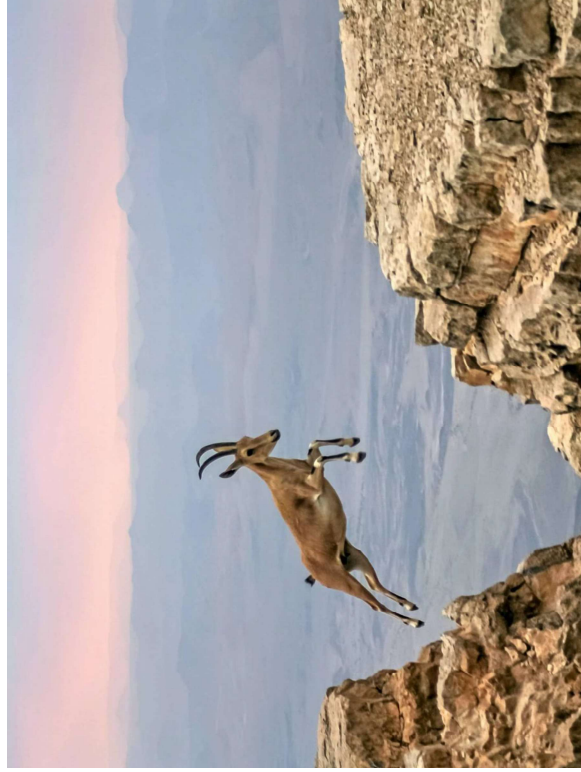
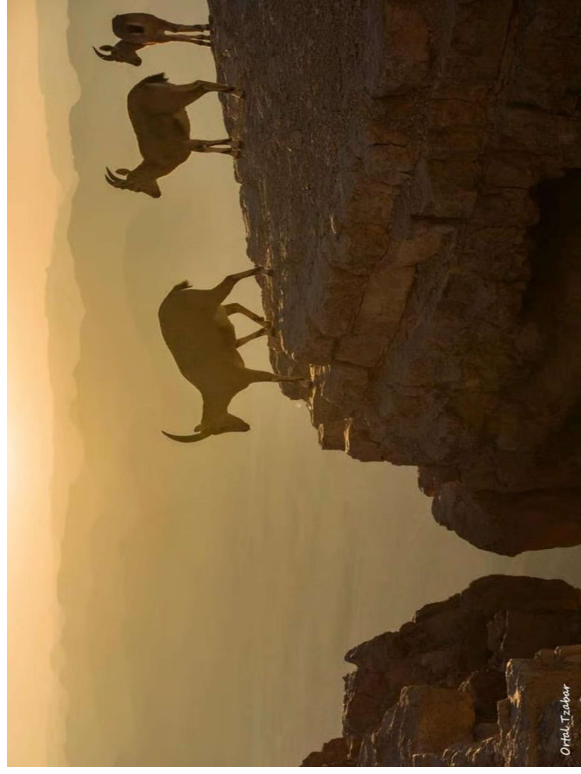
19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the **strength** of His might.

Eph 6:10-11

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the **strength** of His might.

1 Peter 4:11

11 Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the **strength** which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ,



19 *The Lord God is my strength,
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IV. Living the life of the Ibex.

- Habakkuk compares our life to the life of an Ibex.
- Ibexes roamed the Judean mountains.

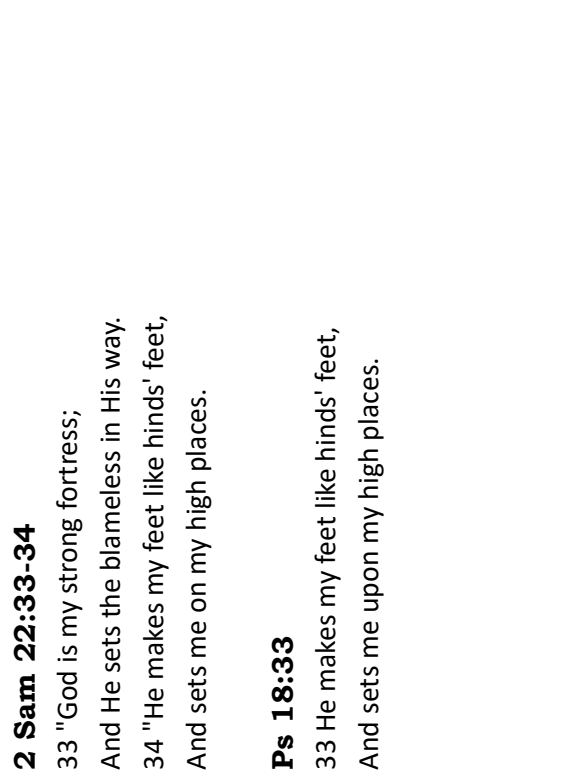
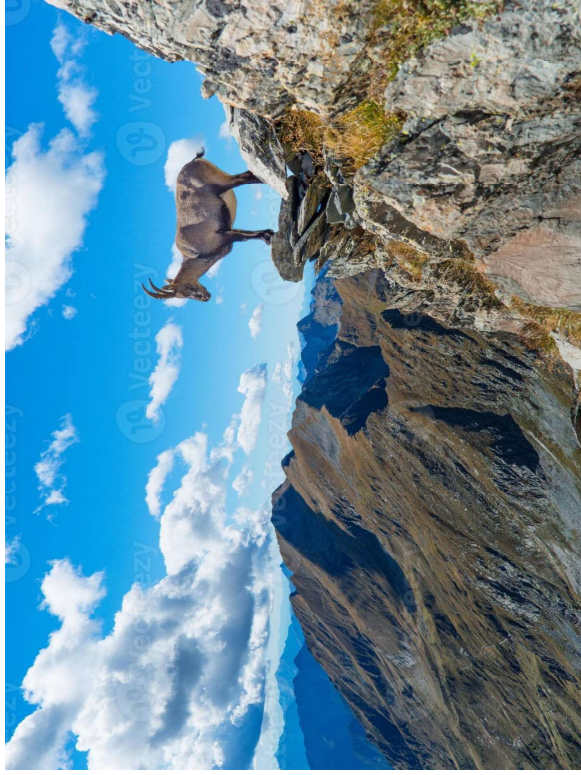
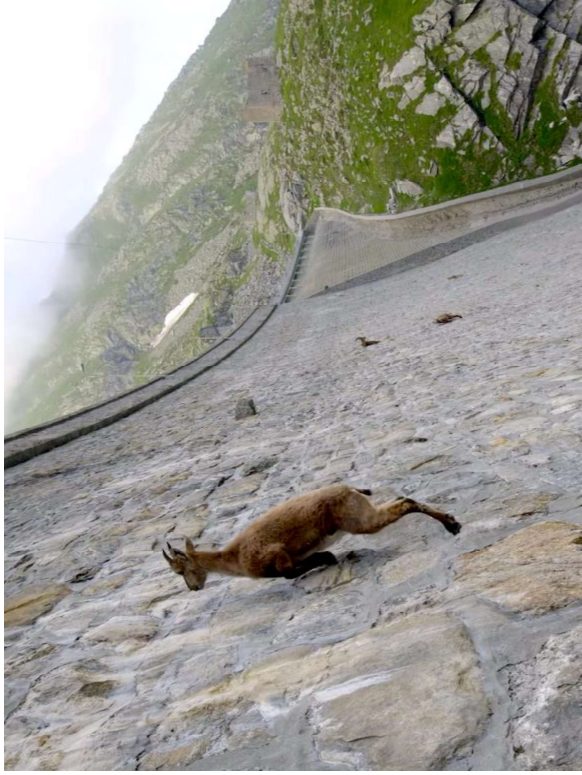
Deut 14:3-5

3 "You shall not eat any detestable thing.

4 "These are the animals which you may eat: the ox, the sheep, the goat,

5 the deer, the gazelle, the roebuck, the wild goat, the **ibex**, the antelope and the mountain sheep.

• Let's look at them . . .



2 Sam 22:33-34

33 "God is my strong fortress;
And He sets the blameless in His way.
34 "He makes my feet like hinds' feet,
And sets me on my high places.

Ps 18:33

33 He makes my feet like hinds' feet,
And sets me upon my high places.

The hind legs of an ibex are good for:

1. Running - 40-50 mph
2. Agility - can twist and turn
3. Balance – on the slopes of a mountain
4. Defense against predators like wolves
5. Offence – to fight for dominance herd
6. Obtaining food - leaves and salt
7. Jumping in difficult terrain
8. Reaching high places.

10 things the book of Habakkuk teaches us:

1. The intensity and duration of our prayers does not guarantee a positive response from God.
2. No one has a magic formula for prayer.
3. Our prayers are always subject to God's sovereign plan. Prayer is discovering what God's plan is, not God discovering what our plan is.
4. We simply do not have enough information to critique the plan of God.
5. When we are perplexed as to what God is doing, take a step back onto the firm foundation of who we know God is.
6. You might not like God's answer to your prayer, but realize He is accomplishing and causing thousands perhaps hundreds of thousands if not millions of effects in people near and far.
7. Patience is a fruit of the Spirit.
8. God's sovereignty is so deep, He can use the most vile, evil, wicked persons and acts to accomplish His purposes.
9. After using evil to accomplish His purposes, He then will condemn, judge, and punish the evil.
10. The believer's response to an impending crisis, is always to surrender everything and cling to God.