

## THANKSGIVING, Even when...

Reference: **Habakkuk 3:17-19**

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The first Thanksgiving, the pilgrims were blessed by their new land. They had a good harvest; however, you should remember that they had many hardships. We won't go into all of those, but, with the weather, the wild terrain and animals, sickness and every other obstacle to include losing half their number, they still found reason to give thanks.

### Exposition:

- A. When the provision of God changes, be thankful that He is unchanged! (**Vs. 17**)
1. Habakkuk envisioned losing things vital to their economy.
    - a. The fig tree will not blossom.
    - b. No fruit on the vines.
    - c. Olive trees do not produce.
    - d. Fields yield no harvest.
    - e. Cattle and sheep are lost.
  2. This prophet says he will be thankful anyway.
  3. Economic conditions change.
    - a. They changed in Egypt. (seven poor years)
    - b. They changed for Hob. (He lost his wealth)
    - c. They changed during the Great Depression.
    - d. They may change due to loss of health or even bad investments.
  4. GOD does not change (**Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8**) so be thankful.
- B. When suffering be thankful for His salvation (**Vs. 18**)
1. We are never far from problems in this life.
    - a. Everything about us is fragile
    - b. Life itself is uncertain
  2. Salvation provides eternal life.
    - a. Eternal life promised (**John 3:16, 5:24; 1 John 5:11-13**)
    - b. We are not limited to these few years of tears.

3. Heaven is ahead. (**John 14:1-6**)
4. The best is yet to come (**1 Peter 1:3-4**)

- C. When passing through trials we can triumph in Christ! (**Vs. 19**)
1. The Lord is my strength. (**Psalms. 27:1; Isa. 40:31; Phil. 4:13**)
  2. He will make my feet like hinds' feet. (swift and graceful)
  3. He will make me to walk on high places... HIGHER GROUND!
  4. He is always up to the occasion. (**Jer. 32:27**)

### Application:

- A. The Pulpit commentary says about our text:

*“This passage contains the most beautiful exhibition of the power of true religion found in the Bible. The language is that of a mind weaned from earthly enjoyments, and habituated to find the highest fruition of its desires in God.”*

- B. What is the take home? In everything **GIVE THANKS!**  
(**1 Thess. 5:18**)