

Hinds' Feet Habakkuk 3:19

We have come to the end of our study from Habakkuk. I can think of no better way to end the study than to examine the last verse of Habakkuk by itself. It's the summation of all we've learned; the climax of all that the prophet has learned in his struggle to understand the difficult circumstances he finds himself in. Our text is just one verse. As we read, remember that a hind is a female deer. A male is a 'hart' or a 'buck.'

I. The LORD IS My Strength – “The LORD God is my strength”

Not what He gives; who He is. Not any temporary protection; His eternal person. HE is my strength. Who is He? The attributes of God (A.W. Pink) include adjectives only applicable to God, not us. In other words, the more you see God altogether as yourself, the less you find your strength in Him. The chief charge of the LORD against the wicked: “*You thought I was exactly like you*” (Psalm 50:21).

“The people who know their God are strong and do great things” (Daniel 11:32).

“What comes to our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us” (Tozer).

A. His powerful control – God is sovereign (Hab. Chap. 1). “*I am raising up the Chaldeans*” (v. 6).

B. His loving character – God is love (Hab. Chap. 2). “*The righteous person lives by faith*” (v. 4).

C. His unchanging nature – God is immutable (Hab. Chap. 3). “*God comes from Mt Paran*” (v. 3).

How do I know that God is in charge, that He loves me, and His purpose for my life doesn't change? “*He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also, with Him, grant us all things*” (Romans 8:32). The rest of Romans 8 expounds on the incredible love of God.

When I can come to faith and rest in God's love for me through His Son, I find my strength in HIM.

II. The Lord Makes Me Secure – “He has made my feet like hinds' feet”

The Bible mentions deer often, from the practical Deuteronomy of the Old Testament to the poetic Song of Solomon, but most references are to a hart or to a buck. There are only three references to the hind other than our text. In these, there are 3 characteristics of God's children. Genesis 49:21 – “*Naphtali is a doe set free that bears beautiful fawns.*”

Jeremiah 14:5 – “*Even the doe in the field deserts her newborn fawn because there is no grass.*”

Proverbs 5:19 – “*Your wife is a loving hind and graceful doe. Be exhilarated with her love.*”

The 3 places where a 'hind' is mentioned in the Scripture (other than Habakkuk 3:19) teach us:

Freedom – Selflessness – Contentment

Native American symbolism sees the deer as a power animal or totem representing kindness, gentleness and unconditional love. Shamans, or medicine men, say that deer teach people to be aware of beauty. In ancient times, the hind was the pet animal of Artemis, the warrior goddess.

III. The Lord Moves Me Significantly – “He makes me walk on high places.”

Hinds' Feet on High Places is a novel by Hannah Hurnard written in 1955. It follows a young woman named **Much Afraid** on her journey from **Fearing Family** into **High Places of the Shepherd** guided by two companions, **Sorrow** and **Suffering**. It is based on Habakkuk 3:19.

When **Much Afraid** intimates that she would love to be able to dance upon the high places as do the sure-footed deer, the Shepherd commends her for this desire. To receive this sure-footing, the Shepherd offers to “plant the seed of love” into her heart. At first sight of the long, black narrow seed, she shrieks in fear. Soon, she relents, and after the initial intense pain, she senses that something is indeed different in her. The Shepherd's love grows through life's dark troubles.

“*Walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us*” (Eph. 5:2). When we find ourselves loveless, “*The just shall live by faith*” (Hab. 3:2) that God is doing this good work in us.