




Stories 3.0: Seeing the Rainbow in the Rain


Today's Story: Lance & Ashley King


 Habakkuk 2:4 (ESV) "...the righteous shall live by his faith."


Looking at the storm brings confusion.

 Habakkuk 1:2 (ESV) "O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save?"


 Habakkuk 1:3–4 (ESV) "Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. ⁴ So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted."


 Jeremiah 5:30–31 (NLT) "A horrible and shocking thing has happened in this land— ³¹ the prophets give false prophecies, and the priests rule with an iron hand. Worse yet, my people like it that way! But what will you do when the end comes?"


 Jeremiah 8:12a (NLT) "Are they ashamed of these disgusting actions? Not at all—they don't even know how to blush!"


 Habakkuk 1:5–6 (ESV) "Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told. ⁶ For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, who march through the breadth of the earth, to seize dwellings not their own."


Looking through the storm brings confidence.

 Habakkuk 2:1 (ESV) "I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower, and look out to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint."


 Habakkuk 2:2–3 (ESV) "And the Lord answered me: "Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it. ³ For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay."


 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 (ESV) "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words."


 Philippians 4:13 (NKJV) "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

 2 Corinthians 1:3–4 (NIV) "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God."

Looking beyond the storm brings comfort.

 Habakkuk 3:2 (ESV) "O Lord, I have heard the report of you, and your work, O Lord, do I fear. In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy."

 Habakkuk 3:2 (MSG) "God, I've heard what our ancestors say about you, and I'm stopped in my tracks, down on my knees. Do among us what you did among them. Work among us as you worked among them. And as you bring judgment, as you surely must, remember mercy."

 Habakkuk 3:17–19 (ESV) "Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, ¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. ¹⁹ God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places. To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments."

Digging Deeper: If one's joy is rooted in anything that can be touched or tampered with, that joy is unstable. If one's life is built on anything other than the Lord, that foundation is not strong enough. Habakkuk rejoiced in the God of his salvation. The Lord was his strength. Where does your joy come from? Where do you get your strength? Can you say, like Habakkuk, that you will worship God no matter what?