

Final – Name (Embrace) | God feels distant – Get worse – Don't make sense – Waiting tempts wander
For Righteousness Will Come | **Circle...Ant – Our limited perspective – God's eternal plan & purpose**

- Josiah – Revival over - Turmoil...idolatrous – Wars – Surrounded Assyrians, Babylonians, Egyptians

As we look at the rest of this chapter, God is going to reveal the next piece of his perspective

What Habakkuk doesn't know...righteousness is coming...Answer – **How long will I cry for help (1:2)**

Big Idea – Opposition to God Leads to Inevitable Ruin | Piece at a time (PRAY)

Hurricane – radar – cameras on beach...ominous...nothing unusual...know coming...can't be stopped

- **Tone of this text...anticipation of reconning** = 5 'woes'...'taunt song' that will befall Babylon
Woe – Interjection of distress pronounced in the face of disaster or coming judgment because of sin

- *Hoy* – **Onomatopoeia (Batman)** | (6x) Mourning the dead – (40x) Divine Judgement Warning
Only 2 outcomes...people...God's plan: life & peace...trust God & live by faith - turmoil & destruction...don't
Like an approaching hurricane...the end result for evil is inevitable – Woe to them... | **Five 'woes'**

1. **Woe is Coming for Those Who: Steal from Others (6-8)**

⁶ Shall not all these take up their taunt against him, with scoffing and riddles for him, and say, "Woe to him who heaps up what is not his own— for how long? — and loads himself with pledges!"

Who do you think you are...getting rich by stealing and extortion? How long...get away?

- System of collateral...giving 'pledge'...repayment – Keep pledges / interest high (extortion) (**van**)
⁷ Will not your debtors suddenly arise, and those awake who will make you tremble? Then you will be spoil for them. ⁸ Because you have plundered many nations, all the remnant of the peoples shall plunder you, for the blood of man and violence to the earth, to cities and all who dwell in them.

- 'Will not your debtors suddenly arise' – Victimized nations will rise in revolt | **Boomerang**
Doom = robber – thief – embezzler – dishonest...blood that was spilled will be returning for blood
 - What the Babylonians have done to others...others will do the Babylonians

Applies...any tyrant...time period...**Tempting - Work Hard – Be Honest – It Will Work Out | (Example)**

When power becomes a tool to take advantage of others...woe to you

2. **Woe is Coming for Those Who: Stack Unjust Gain (9-11)**

⁹ "Woe to him who gets evil gain for his house, to set his nest on high, to be safe from the reach of harm! ¹⁰ You have devised shame for your house by cutting off many peoples; you have forfeited your life. ¹¹ For the stone will cry out from the wall, and the beam from the woodwork respond.

All the plundering Babylon...Nebuchadnezzar did served 2 purposes: Bring Security – Build Wealth

- Making profits through violence to secure safety - Plunder for self-aggrandizement & exaltation
- 'Nest on high' – **Literal** - Symbol of invincibility...impervious to harm – 'Lord over'
- 'Cut off people' – Shortening the portion and charging for the entire piece **'Rip off'**
- 'Forfeited lives' – Elevate themselves...trampled others down ...death – **building plan included ruin**
Babylonians wickedness...so great...wood & stone cry out oppressive ways – **Concentration camps**

Brazen...many build wealth & security looking for the angle...scam | How you build you house matters

- Spiritually 2 options: Selfish gain, creating pride & sense of security for yourself...expense others
- Build it on faith: Trusting God for your significance & security, taking what he gives...glorify him
Different building methods...2 things in common: They will testify about you - They will outlive you
Life you build – physical home...more your character & pursuits – testify...who you are and who you were
Babylonians built shame for their house by the testimony of how they built...**how are you building?**

When corruption becomes a tool to provide luxury...woe to you

3. **Woe is Coming for Those Who: Setup Violent Systems (12-14)**

¹² "Woe to him who builds a town with blood and founds a city on iniquity!"

Babylonian Empire built...blood & sweat of enslaved people | Murder – Oppression – Tyranny = Tools
Those who live on the weak and powerless ultimately collapse under the weight of oppression

- ¹³ Behold, is it not from the Lord of hosts that peoples labor merely for fire, and nations weary themselves for nothing? - God declares that their ambitious work has been done in vain | Mansions = My Bonfire
Habakkuk's day...Babylonians...filling the earth: Empire – Name – Power...Their armies took over
But God says it's all going to be burned away...**And what takes its place?**

¹⁴ For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

After works...built by pride & injustice...swept away – God's coming - fill the earth like waters cover the sea

And what does he fill it with? The knowledge of his glory!

His glory = The perfectly good and perfectly powerful presence of God

Knowledge of his glory - He will cover the earth & people will know it. Not just academically, but personally
God's purpose goes beyond simply punishing the wicked – That all the world know Him: **GOSPEL**

This world is a violent system – will one day be washed clean with the knowledge of God's Glory

- Shame on those who build with bloodshed – labor will come to nothing...it will be burned (13)
But God is at work doing a great thing – washing over - making Himself known in all the earth (14)

When violence becomes the tool to build empires...woe to you

4. **Shame the Weak (15-17)**

¹⁵ "Woe to him who makes his neighbors drink— you pour out your wrath and make them drunk, in order to gaze at their nakedness!"

Ruin people...strong drink...to gaze on their shame – Slipping drugs & laughing at their behavior
Leveraging strength to victimize someone else's weakness - Doom of debauchery

¹⁶ You will have your fill of shame instead of glory. Drink, yourself, and show your uncircumcision! The cup in the Lord's right hand will come around to you, and utter shame will come upon your glory! ¹⁷ The violence done to Lebanon will overwhelm you, as will the destruction of the beasts that terrified them, for the blood of man and violence to the earth, to cities and all who dwell in them.

Nebuchadnezzar began to view nations & leaders...playthings...His liking | **Lebanon**

He did this because he could - Position & Power allowed = whatever rules & treat people however
Soon, Nebuchadnezzar's empire = Repayment for victimizing, bullying, degrading those around them
In God's time...contempt...weaker...would be returned | **Pick a fight he can't win...**

Two kinds of weak: Those who know it...and those who don't | Live by faith – Live by pride

The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? (Psalm 118:6)

- Opposition there – 'side' – Those who realize their weakness = Lord | Don't = Find out | **FRANS**
When leveraging your strength becomes the tool to victimize the weak...woe to you

5. **Seek Hope Apart from God (18-20)**

¹⁸ "What profit is an idol when its maker has shaped it, a metal image, a teacher of lies? For its maker trusts in his own creation when he makes speechless idols! ¹⁹ Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake; to a silent stone, Arise! Can this teach? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in it.

²⁰ But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him."

All these woes are really illustrations of the pride of everyone who lives for self

- Babylon = Literal violent sense, but anyone apart from God displays these kinds of spiritual pride
The ultimate manifestation of pride is claiming control over the divine itself = Idolatry
- Idolatry = Common ancient history – statue or creation of some kind...worship and sacrifice to it
- 30...or so years...Nebuchadnezzar...sets up 90 foot statue...gold...commanded worship (Dan 3)
We don't usually deal in 90 foot golden statues today...**Joke**...but we do deal in idolatry.

A good thing becomes a bad thing when it replaces The Best thing

Idolatry = culmination of pride. Anything as: worship – security...rejection of God's worthiness, authority
What kind of pride...demonstrated trusting: Ourselves, - Worldly Systems - Perception our own greatness?

Woe to us – as individuals and as a society – if we have. Look at the final verse:

(20) "But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him."

Why does God call the whole earth to be still and keep silent? THE EARTH WILL BE SILENT

It's a call to acknowledge the perfect, consuming power of God, before which every person, every nation, everything has nothing to say. Against which no evil will stand – **Hurricane**

God's undeniable message in Habakkuk 2:6-20 is that evil will come to an end

'Evil's inherent tendency is to self-destruct' – J.N.B Heflin | Divinely destruct

- Everyone and everything that lives in opposition to God will meet its end
 - Only God in his infinite glory and infinite goodness will remain.
- The question for every person is, will we live in pride & end up in the inevitable tragedy it brings
 - Or by faith live in God's righteousness and be saved? **Righteousness will come!** Let's pray...