

# Habakkuk 2

Jesus

- **Habakkuk's First Complaint** Why are you not judging the evil of my people
- **God's First Response** I will judge them using your enemy to do it
- **Habakkuk's Second Complaint** Are You going to let them get away with it?

Babylonians are going catch us like fish in a net? Pagans?

**Habakkuk 1:17** Shall they therefore empty their net/continue to slay nations without pity?

## I. Embracing God's Timing/God's Ways/God's Heart

1 I will stand my watch And set myself on the rampart, And watch to see what He will say to me, And what I will answer **when I am corrected.**

- Habakkuk begins to accept a **much-needed Attitude Adjustment**

### God is God

**Embrace ...** Habakkuk is slowly but surely *embracing* the reality that God is God... and he is not, and that God does things perfectly in His own time/in His own way. [NJC]

- **Stands ready to be corrected for wrong thinking**

1. Accused God of the **wrong timing**. Why now? Why not now?
2. Accused God of the **wrong method**

Why are you going to use this thing to accomplish your purpose in my life?

**Yet all God does is right...**

If there is a discrepancy between man/God it is surely man that is wrong

**Psalms 145:17** The Lord is righteous in **all His ways**, Gracious in **all His works**.

**Psalms 18:30** As for God, **His way is perfect...**

**Deuteronomy 32:4** [Song of Moses] He is the Rock, **His work is perfect**; For **all His ways are justice**, A God of truth and without injustice; **Righteous and upright is He.**

**Habakkuk humbles himself/Waits for God's response/correction**

**Question lingers:** Are they going to get away with it?

2 **Then the Lord answered me** and said: "Write the vision And **make it plain** on tablets, That he may run who reads it."

**God calls us to *Simply teach the Word Simply... Make it Plain***

**Nehemiah 8:7b...** the Levites **helped the people to understand** the Law; and the people stood in their place. 8 So they read distinctly from the book... and **they gave the sense and helped them to understand the reading.**

- **Make what God says plain...**

1. **Make what I say plain to the people:** Simple application to daily lives
2. **Make what I say clear to the people:** Not confusing/Not adding to it

That he may run who reads it?

### **That the message would result in action/application**

**Habakkuk had to make it practical:** It doesn't say, "*that he who runs may read it,*" but "*that he may run who reads it.*" The running; i.e., the activity/progress - **comes forth from God's word.** [Guzik]

- The Saints are equipped w/the Word to **do the work...**

**Ephesians 4:11** [Jesus]... gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the **equipping of the saints** for the work of ministry

- Write the vision I give you plainly/clearly/**send it out to Judah...**

3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry.

- **Make it clear to Judah...**Babylon is coming to Judge you

**God is now ready to answer Habakkuk's question:** What about them?

## **II. Pride will be Judged**

4 "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But **the just shall live by his faith.**

- The answer to "What must I do to be saved?"
- **The just will live by faith:** 3x in NT. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved!

**Ephesians 2:8** ...by grace you have been **saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves

God's answer to Habakkuk regarding Babylon?  
I will deal with the proud. **You trust in Me**

- We see the wicked succeed/wonder why?
- We ask what is the use of being good/righteous?

**Asaph wanted to give up as he watched the wicked frolic in wickedness  
While he struggled for righteousness**

**Psalm 73:1** Truly God is good to Israel, to such as are pure in heart. 2 But as for me, **my feet had almost stumbled**; My steps had nearly slipped. 3 For I was envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked. 4 For there are no pangs in their death, But their strength is firm. 5 They are not in trouble as other men, Nor are they plagued like other men. 6 Therefore pride serves as their necklace; Violence covers them like a garment. 7 Their eyes bulge with abundance; They have more than heart could wish. 8 They scoff and speak wickedly concerning oppression; They speak loftily. 9 They set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue walks through the earth. 10 Therefore his people return here, And waters of a full cup are drained by them. 11 And they say, "How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?" 12 Behold, these are the ungodly, Who

are always at ease; They increase in riches. 13 Surely I have **cleansed my heart in vain**, And washed my hands in innocence. 14 For all day long I have been plagued, And chastened every morning. 15 If I had said, "I will speak thus," Behold, I would have been untrue to the generation of Your children. 16 When I thought how to understand this, It was too painful for me—

### Mid-Psalm Revelation: Fate of the Wicked

**...17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end.** 18 Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. 19 Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors. 20 As a dream when one awakes, So, Lord, when You awake, You shall despise their image. 21 Thus my heart was grieved, And I was vexed in my mind. 22 I was so foolish and ignorant; I was like a beast before You. 23 Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand. 24 You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward **receive me to glory**. 25 Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You. 26 My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. 27 For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish; You have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry. 28 But **it is good for me to draw near to God**; I have put my trust in the Lord God, That I may declare all Your works.

- **God Sees**                      The wickedness of the proud
- **God Hears**                     Our cry for justice
- **God Waits**                    Giving time for repentance
- **God Acts**                      Eternally Judges those who will not repent

**We don't desire the fate of the wicked even upon our worst enemy**

- **We need to come to terms with...**
  1. God's Timing
  2. God's Ways
  3. **God's Heart**

**2 Peter 2:9b...** [God is...] longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

**1 Timothy 2:4** [God...] desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

**1 Timothy 1:15** This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to **save sinners**, of whom I am chief.

- **All sin will be paid for.**
  1. **Humble Believer:** By Jesus on the Cross
  2. **Proud sinner:** By themselves in Eternal Hell. Debt never able fully paid
- Yet God desires repentance from the **most heinous sinner...**

Nebuchadnezzar could be the OT Chief of sinners and God saved him  
After 7 years in wilderness looking like Howard Hughes
- **Behold the Proud:** Behold Nebuchadnezzar. He ain't right.

Just because God is using someone does not mean they are right. [NJC]

Nebuchadnezzar is God's servant used for His purpose... yet wicked  
**God uses all things for His good and His purpose**

We should never give thanks to God for sin, or, for that matter, we should never give thanks to God for Satan. But we can give thanks for the way God uses evil to accomplish His purposes. [Lutzer]

- **God:** I see the proud

**Proverbs 6:16** These six things the **Lord hates**, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: 17 [numero uno] A **proud look**, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood...

- **Pride:** Sin of the devil

**Isaiah 14:12** How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! 13 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will **exalt my throne** above the stars of God... "Those who see you will gaze at you, And consider you, saying: 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms, 17 Who made the world as a wilderness And destroyed its cities...?

**Ezekiel 28:17** Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; **I cast you to the ground**, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you.

- **Pride comes before the fall:** As with devil so w/ Babylon/ so w/us...

5 "Indeed, because he transgresses by wine, He is a **proud man**, And he does not stay at home. Because he enlarges his desire as hell, And he is like death, and **cannot be satisfied**, He gathers to himself all nations And heaps up for himself all peoples.

God sees the proud man and how the proud man cannot be satisfied. The one who is declared just by faith is satisfied, but the proud man keeps grasping. [Guzik]

6 "Will not all these [nations/peoples] take up a proverb against him, And a taunting riddle against him, and say, 'Woe to him who increases What is not his—how long? And to him who loads himself with many pledges'? 7 Will not your creditors rise up suddenly? Will they not awaken who oppress you? And you will become their booty. 8 Because you have plundered many nations, All the remnant of the people shall plunder you, **Because of men's blood And the violence** of the land and the city, And of all who dwell in it.

The immediate value of the word was Habakkuk learned that God's employment of the Chaldeans did not mean the permanent power of this evil people." [Morgan]

- They would not go unpunished...

**Numbers 32:23** ... be sure your **sin will find you out.**

**Galatians 6:7** Do not be deceived God is not mocked for whatever a man sows that he will

also reap.

**Genesis 18:25** Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

- **Four Woes** regarding manifestations of the pride of man...

1. Woe to the **Greedy**
2. Woe to the **Violent**
3. Woe to the **Drunk**
4. Woe to the **Idolater**

**Woe?** This is your sin and why judgment is surely coming

- **Woe to the Greedy...**

9 "Woe to him who covets evil gain for his house, That he may set his nest on high, That he may be delivered from the power of disaster! 10 You give shameful counsel to our house, Cutting off many peoples, And sin against your soul. 11 For the stone will cry out from the wall, And the beam from the timbers will answer it.

- Cannot serve both God and Money: Hate one and love the other...

**Luke 12:16** [Parable of Jesus] The ground of a certain rich man yielded **plentifully**. 17 And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' 18 So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" 20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided? 21 "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

- He forgot who made the ground yield plentifully...

**Psalms 50:10** [Asaph] ... every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills.

**Psalms 24:1** David. The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.

- Deceit of riches tempts men to neglect/hate God...

**1 Timothy 6:10** ... the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

**Woe to the Greedy:** They will be judged

- **Woe to the Violent...**

12 "Woe to him who **builds a town with bloodshed**, Who **establishes a city** by iniquity! 13 Behold, is it not of the Lord of hosts That the peoples labor to feed the fire, And nations weary themselves in vain? 14 For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, As the waters

cover the sea.

- **God hates the violence of today:** Vengeance is His alone

**Psalm 11:5** ... the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates.

**Proverbs 21:7** The violence of the wicked will **destroy them...**

**Your labor will only fuel the fire of your judgment**

**Matthew 24:37**... as the **days of Noah** were so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

**Genesis 6:11** The earth also was corrupt before God, and the **earth was filled with violence.**

**The earth will be filled** with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord  
As the waters cover the sea

**Isaiah 60:18** **Violence shall no longer** be heard in your land, Neither wasting nor destruction within your borders; But you shall call your walls Salvation, And your gates Praise.

- **Violence will be judged:** Loud prideful mouth will be permanently shut

**Woe to the Violent:** They will be judged

- **Woe to the Drunkard...**

15 "Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbor, Pressing him to your bottle, Even to make him drunk, That you may look on his nakedness! 16 You are filled with shame instead of glory. You also—drink! And be exposed as uncircumcised! The cup of the Lord's right hand will be turned against you, And utter shame will be on your glory. 17 For the violence done to Lebanon will cover you, And the plunder of beasts which made them afraid, Because of men's blood And the violence of the land and the city, And of all who dwell in it.

**Ephesians 5:18** ...do not be drunk with wine... but be **filled with the Spirit**

Do not be controlled by alcohol/**Instead...Be controlled by God's Spirit**

- **Violence/Drunkenness are buddies:** Super-drunk?

**Proverbs 20:1** Wine is a mocker; Strong drink is a brawler/whoever is led astray by it is not wise.

- Drunkenness/Perversion are also close buddies...

**Romans 13:13** Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust

**Being a drunk is not a disease it is a selfish, self-centered sin against man/God  
Causing destruction of families and even fall of Nations**

- Nebs Great Grandson Belshazzar's Drunkenness would lead to the **demise if Babylon**

**Woe to the Drunkard:** They will be judged

- **Woe to the Idolater...**

18 "What profit is the image, that its maker should carve it, The molded image, a teacher of lies, That the maker of its mold should trust in it, To make mute idols? 19 Woe to him who says to wood, 'Awake!' To silent stone, 'Arise! It shall teach!' Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, Yet in it there is no breath at all.

**Habakkuk 1:16 ... they sacrifice to their net, And burn incense to their dragnet...**

- **Idolatry**

1. **Worship of Works:** Self-effort. Works
2. **Worship of Wisdom:** Knowledge. E.g., Nebo.

**1 Corinthians 1:22 ... but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block [trusting in works] and to the Greeks foolishness [trusting in wisdom], 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.**

- Only God is to be worshipped

**Woe to the Idolater:** They will be judged

- **Q.** Are they just going to get away with it?
- **A.** The Violent/Greedy/Drunkards/Idolaters will be judged but...

**Chill out Habakkuk. Sit and be still.**

20 "But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him."

**Psalms 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!**

**We need get embrace...God's Timing, God's Ways, and God's Heart**

- Habakkuk wanted God to judge Judah not realizing **extent of the judgment due!**

**Q. When we are pulled over for going 100 in a 25...do we want Justice or Mercy?**

- Do we want God to judge America to the extent of judgment due our sin?
  1. Violence
  2. Greed
  3. Drunkenness/Drugs
  4. Idolatry...is this Babylon, Judah...or America
- God is showing America mercy... giving us time to repent
- Habakkuk wants to make sure his enemies get **justice not mercy yet...**

**James 2:13 ... judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.**

- Later/shaking in his sandals Habakkuk will beg for **mercy not justice** for his nation

**Habakkuk 3:20** Lord, I have heard Your speech and was afraid; O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make it known; **In wrath remember mercy.**

**Habakkuk is realizing Judah was no better than Babylon  
Amazing how our sin looks so much worse on others than it does on us**