



**Subversive Prophecy  
How Do We Deal With Difficult Times?  
Habakkuk 2:5 – 20**

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When we last were in Habakkuk, we learned that for the believer, we have been called to have a lifestyle that is one of faith. It is an expectation of us as believers to trust the Lord and the promises He has made in His word.

Habakkuk 2:4

“Behold, as for the impudent one, His soul is not right within him; But the righteous one will live by his faith.” (NASB 2020)

The word does not say that the righteous shall begin by faith and then proceed on some other principle. It does not say that the righteous shall draw on faith from time to time as faith is needed. It says “the righteous will live [continuously] by his faith.” That is, the righteous will operate on this principle twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, fifty-two weeks a year—so long as life lasts. (Boice 2002, 411)

That is how believers are to live.

YAHWEH is letting Habakkuk know that the remnant, those who trust Him have a lifestyle expectation. “So the justified by faith continue to live by faith. Despite the just judgments of God, a remnant shall survive. By steadfast trust through the darkest hours, they shall live.” (Robertson 1990, 183)



This also holds for us today.

We are still in Habakkuk 2 and as we pick up with verse 5, we need to understand that we are about to be given an understanding about that person who has a soul that is not right in them.

One of the tools that the Lord will use in His answer to Habakkuk is satire. Be on the lookout for it.

Habakkuk 2:5

“Furthermore, wine betrays an arrogant man, So that he does not achieve his objective. He enlarges his appetite like Sheol, And he is like death, never satisfied. He also gathers to himself all the nations And collects to himself all the peoples.” (NASB 2020)

This ties in with the first half of verse 4. Let’s use the first half as translated by the NLT. “Look at the proud! They trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked..” (Habakkuk 2:4a, NLT)

The one being talked about here in verse 5 is the same one we started off with in verse 4.

The context points to Babylon as being the proud ones. Here we see that wine will betray the arrogant one. This is a statement of fact as well as prophetic of an event that we see the fulfillment of in Daniel 5. It will be fulfilled and done in a manner to prove “wine betrays.”

Let me set up the scenario first. The King of Babylon, Nabonidus, is off doing other things of a religious nature, we think, in Saudi Arabia and he has left his son as regent on the throne. We know his name as Belshazzar. Belshazzar has been in place 10 years and has been busy recently dealing with the Persians and the Medes.

The events in Daniel 5 take place in 539 BC leading up to the fall of Babylon in October of that year. “The war was going badly for Babylon. Cyrus defeated the Babylonians at Opis in the north on the Tigris and took the city. A few days later (Oct 10, 539), Cyrus took Sippar without opposition. The Persians led by Gubaru/Ugbaru, governor of Gutium, ultimately took Babylon on October 12, 539.” (Sprinkle 2020, 133)

The area immediately around Babylon has been surrounded, but they have an arrogant confidence in their defenses. Unknown to them, the Persian military has diverted the Euphrates River and the only way to come into the city is rapidly being exposed as the level of the river drops.

Belshazzar, in true arrogant Babylonian fashion decides to have a drunken orgy involving most of the princes and royalty of Babylon. Why we do not know but in the middle of the orgy, after making the decision to use Temple implements to drink from, an event takes place, alluded to here in Habakkuk.

Daniel 5:5–6

“Suddenly a human hand appeared and began writing on the plaster wall of the palace, where the light from the lamps was shining most brightly. And the king saw the hand as it was writing. He turned pale and was so frightened that his knees began to shake.” (GNB)

This turns out to be, right in the middle of a drunken orgy, God’s announcement to the King that Babylon’s time is up, and right now.

The achievement of the King’s objective of living to see tomorrow, much less remaining in power as the King, are now in doubt.

The party was at the direction of Belshazzar as well as the various toasts and the usage of Temple implements from Jerusalem. Arrogant man? Check. So, what do we learn about his drinking and the impact of seeing the hand of God writing on the wall?



He effectively lost control of his bodily functions. “We must look at the story from the point of view of an Aramaic-speaking Israelite audience who had suffered much at the hands of the Babylonians. The Babylonian king is described as first insulting the Israelite God and then, when the latter responds with the mysterious handwriting on the wall, as being so frightened that the “knots of his loins were untied.” This ignominious spectacle is enough to elicit hoots of derisive laughter on the part of the audience. After the pagan wise men have failed to interpret the riddle, the queen mother recommends the Israelite prophet Daniel, whom she describes to the king as particularly competent to “untie knots” for him. The unwitting double entendre evokes more derisive laughter. Finally the king himself comes face to face with Daniel—the pagan king named Belshazzar before the Israelite prophet named Belteshazzar—and says, in effect, “I understand that you can untie my knots for me.” Again we can imagine the audience’s uproarious laughter as the hapless pagan king unwittingly makes a fool of himself before the prophet of the Lord. We see how the story uses burlesque humor to underscore the sovereignty of the Israelite God, before whom the great kings of the earth can at a moment’s notice be reduced to figures of fun, preparatory to being brought to justice. (Wolters 1991, 121)

Did wine betray Belshazzar? Yes, it did. He was drunk, his control of certain bodily functions was already compromised due to the drink and now he is scared out of his mind. He lost all control as a result; the wine has betrayed him.

There was also another thing, Babylon has a history of drinking that was known by the enemy.

The Persian’s knew about the Babylonian penchant for drinking parties no matter what. The historian Xenophon tells us very plainly about the fulfillment of what Habakkuk is saying here in verse 5.

Then, when he heard that a certain festival had come round in Babylon, during which **all Babylon was accustomed to drink and revel all night long**, Cyrus took a large number of men, just as soon as it was dark, and opened up the heads of the trenches at the river. [16] As soon as that was done, the water flowed down through the ditches in the night, and the bed of the river, where it traversed the city, became passable for men. (Xenophon 1914, 7.5.15-16)

Habakkuk 2:5

“**Furthermore, wine betrays an arrogant man, So that he does not achieve his objective.** He enlarges his appetite like Sheol, And **he is like death, never satisfied.** He also gathers to himself all the nations And collects to himself all the peoples.” (NASB 2020)

So, the first part of verse 5, fulfilled, see Daniel 5.

Another condition of the arrogant proud man, as seen in the Babylonians, is that the unbeliever is a serial coveter. Nothing is ever enough. They not only want more, but they also want what everyone else has and if they cannot get it, then they take it.

What Babylon wants more than anything is to control others. Remember, Babylon, in the Bible, is a picture of the city of man. This is the name of the city of man destroyed at the end of the age, so this makes sense.

The picture being drawn by the Lord here compares their insatiable desire for control to death itself. “Just as death has an insatiable appetite that can never be satisfied, so the Babylonians have an insatiable appetite to subject nations under their control. The image of the Babylonians opening their throats to devour people recalls the earlier image in 1:13 where the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves.” (Snyman 2020, 71-72)

What is it that we see as an unfortunate characteristic in some political leaders in the west that became obvious during the pandemic?



The desire for control. We are learning here that for the unbeliever, or for the nation, it is all about satisfying their own desires, the issue is control of others. Today, one of the topics at hand is the desire to control the narrative being discussed in the media. By controlling that, then a step has been taken to control the people as well.

For Babylon, this desire to control others is out of control. This is what drives them to conquest. This is why they take prisoners. The lust to control others drives their culture.

What is it we know about those who are controllers?

Controlling people work hard to manipulate other people, events, and circumstances to make things go their way. They spend their waking hours trying to figure out how to spin, engineer, and manipulate situations to their advantage and gain. These people get very upset and angry when things don't go their way. They convince themselves that the world around them will fall apart if they are not in control, whether it is at home or at work or where ever they are in what every position or situation they are in. They must be in control to be comfortable. (Eckhardt 2015, 75)

The arrogant and proud citizens of Babylon, spend their time placing themselves into an altered state of consciousness to obtain what they want, but that never works. They look everywhere they can to fill the hole that exists inside, so they spend their time looking at what others have, desire it and they simply go and take it. At the very least, they look for others to control so they can somehow feel fulfilled or complete, but they will never be satisfied.

This sounds like what we see taking place around us these days. This is a cultural problem worldwide. Those without Christ want to be in control, the lie of Genesis 3, to be like God.

Babylon wanted to expand as far as possible. The Babylon of the end of the age will go global. This is no different than what we see in some nations today, but we also see this same behavior with corporations wanting to expand into other nations. The west wants to stop Chinese expansion, but the business side of the west wants access to the markets there.

There is never any satisfaction, there is always the need for more.

Solomon warned about this kind of conduct hundreds of years earlier.

Ecclesiastes 5:10–12

“Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness! The more you have, the more people come to help you spend it. So what good is wealth—except perhaps to watch it slip through your fingers! People who work hard sleep well, whether they eat little or much. But the rich seldom get a good night’s sleep.” (NLT)

Because they are worried, like Babylon, that someone else will take their stuff.

What about those who are the victims of Babylon, or any other nation, firm or individual behaving in such a manner?

Habakkuk 2:6–8

“Will all of these not take up a song of ridicule against him, Even a saying and insinuations against him And say, ‘Woe to him who increases what is not his— For how long— And makes himself rich with debts!’ Will your creditors not rise up suddenly, And those who collect from you awaken? Indeed, you will become plunder for them. Since you have looted many nations, All the rest of the peoples will loot you— Because of human bloodshed and violence done to the land, To the town and all its inhabitants.” (NASB 2020)



The victims of Babylon, now ridicule and taunt Babylon. This is called satire. "Satire is the exposure of human vice or folly through rebuke or ridicule. It can appear in any form or genre, including expository prose, narrative, poetry or visionary writing. It can be either a minor part of a work or the main point. It might consist of an entire book (e.g., Amos), or it can be as small as an individual proverb. One of the conventions of satire is the freedom to exaggerate, overstate or oversimplify to make a satiric point. Overall, satire is a subversive form that questions the status quo, unsettles people's thinking, assaults the deep structure of conventional thought patterns and aims to make people uncomfortable." (Ryken, et al. 2000, 762)

We have already seen a small example of that in how the prophecy seen at the beginning of verse 5 was fulfilled in Daniel 5.

This section is, therefore, subversive literature and 'prophetic in its nature and applicable to all times and all nations'. All these woes are directed at those who, in one way or another, reject the principle stated in 2:4 that the righteous by faith shall live. (Prior 1988, 243)

As we read through this section, we may have the tendency to gloat or laugh at the images presented.

Just as we laughed at what happened to the King of Babylon.

God's heart is to see people repent, even the Babylonians.

How does this ridicule begin among those who have been victimized? Simple, they remember who did this to them and how it was done. This is compared with debt.

As believers, we are not to engage in Babylonian like activity or actions. We do not need to be building up debts before the Lord or in the minds of those around us. Why? See Habakkuk 2:4.

So back to the victims, or as YAHWEH puts it, the creditors.

Habakkuk 2:7

"Will your creditors not rise up suddenly, And those who collect from you awaken? Indeed, you will become plunder for them." (NASB 2020)

For Babylon, they would be attacked and extorted just as they had done to others. Instead, Babylon would become the victim of the victimized.

This was indeed fulfilled by the actions of the Medes and the Persians, and we can also look across history and see this has been the case multiple times. Fast forward a few hundred years and a people whom the Persian Empire victimized, the Greeks, conquered them.

Sowing and reaping has never gone out of style.

Habakkuk 2:8

"Since you have looted many nations, All the rest of the peoples will loot you— Because of human bloodshed and violence done to the land, To the town and all its inhabitants." (NASB 2020)

Shades of what Nahum told the Assyrian Empire and those living in Nineveh. Even more amazing, it was Babylon who did the looting, now, they are next. The looter will be looted.

In the world of international geopolitics, this standard still applies today.

National politics based simply on overwhelming power without care for people and with no determination to establish and uphold justice never endures. (Barker 1999, 333)



This ends the first woe. Time for round two.

Habakkuk 2:9–14

“Woe to him who makes evil profit for his household, To put his nest on high, To be saved from the hand of catastrophe! You have planned a shameful thing for your house By bringing many peoples to an end; So you are sinning against yourself. For the stone will cry out from the wall, And the rafter will answer it from the framework. Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed, And founds a town with violence! Is it not indeed from the LORD of armies That peoples labor merely for fire, And nations become weary for nothing? For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea.” (NASB 2020)

YAHWEH starts off talking about injustice. The way of the world is simple, you want to get rich? Do what you can within the system and if that isn't enough, then use other means to enlarge your portfolio. For those working in Babylon as a member of royalty, or a minister or some other governmental professional this became the norm. The rule was to take your pay, and then take bribes, do whatever you must to expand your portfolio of power, prestige, control and money.

This so-called standard is what those who wanted to destroy Daniel were relying on when they first began their investigation into his affairs in Daniel 6.

Daniel 6:3–5

“Soon Daniel distinguished himself above all the other presidents and satraps because an excellent spirit was in him, and the king planned to appoint him over the whole kingdom. So the presidents and the satraps tried to find grounds for complaint against Daniel in connection with the kingdom. But they could find no grounds for complaint or any corruption, because he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption could be found in him. The men said, “We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God.”” (NRSV)

The discovery was that Daniel was honest. There was no dirt. He was not interested in expanding his portfolio, his interest was in representing YAHWEH.

The members of the Babylonian DOJ discovered that and then conspired to have a law enacted that they knew he would not follow because they knew his honesty and who he served. So, they had a law passed that made it illegal to worship. Then they conducted a no-knock raid and caught Daniel in the act thus forcing an indictment on the false charges and had him arrested and condemned for simply doing what the Lord had commanded.

That was Babylon, but this is what we just witnessed take place in most of the west during the pandemic. In some western nations, it has been decreed that teaching certain sections of the Bible, constitute hate speech and this has resulted in pastors being taken from their churches and thrown into prison. This has been a common practice in China for decades as the government there has tried to eliminate Christianity. In Babylon, it was generally accepted practice, based on what we see here in Habakkuk, for officials to be on the take.

By taking what they want, to include what belonged to others, members of the Babylonian hierarchy were able to provide nice secure homes for themselves. Homes intended to protect them from the rabble in the street with security as well as provide safety from foreign invaders.

They had no problem building up these residences with materials taken from others, but what they were doing was bringing shame on their own house.

All the neighbors knew where the building materials came from. They knew who was defrauded in order to have the home built.



Homes were being built with the intent of security and safety, ones which could be easily defended and if you needed more space to make this happen, you took it from others. You had slaves (exiles) to protect you and serve you. What could go wrong?

The real reason, the more that you take, the angrier you make others, and the more others want to punish and take back what was taken.

When the opportunity comes, such as the downfall of Babylon at the hands of the Persians, those who had been misused, remembered.

The picture is one of the home remembering where the materials came from and how they were paid for, and the house then cries out about the injustice that took place simply to build it.

You have made your family rich with the things you took from other people by force. You have built luxurious and secure homes to try to protect your family from harm. Because you have done all this, God will punish you. (Clark and Hatton 1989, 101)

That is an interesting picture to consider, the home speaking up about where the materials in it came from. Or said in another way, that door we see on your house was on good old Joe's house down the street, until you had the house condemned and took all the good stuff for yourself.

By their own actions, they have insured that they will indeed reap what they have sown. Even the house complains and turns against them.

Babylon, is a type of the world or rather the city of the world. That is the next point of discussion.

Habakkuk 2:12–14

“Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed, And founds a town with violence! Is it not indeed from the LORD of armies That peoples labor merely for fire, And nations become weary for nothing? For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea.” (NASB 2020)

The problem though, this was not just individual homes, this was how Babylon grew the city. Injustice and murder were governmentally sanctioned in Babylon, just as it is in many nations today. We have progressed from individuals, to families, to cities. This is a message for all, not just Babylon.

Those who are the just would not do these actions, they would not build up a city on the blood of others. Here in Habakkuk 12, the word for bloodshed is דָּמִיִּם (dāmîm). “The word translated “bloodshed” is the plural of the Hebrew noun “blood” and always signifies the guilt of murder; cf. the Hebrew “bloods” in vv. 8, 17.” (Blue 1985, 1515)

But the world then, or now, has no problem with that. Stop and think about the cities and states around the world that have endorsed abortion and/or physician assisted suicide. Those communities are building themselves up through bloodshed.

A city is supposed to be built to create a community which performs all of its functions to the glory of God. Jerusalem, when it is obedient, would be the classic example to the world as how a city should be built. Babylon though is a type of the city of the world, and it is built on bloodshed. Rather, on murder.

God condemns the city built on bloodshed, the murder of innocents, considering it to be founded on violence.

In verse 13, God states that those who build in that manner, are building solely to be judged. When He says, “labor merely for fire,” the intent is to remind the reader of what took place in Sodom and Gomorrah.



By referencing the God of Heavenly Armies, it is being made clear that “the kingdom of the world, which is hostile to the Lord and His glory, must be destroyed.” (Keil and Delitzsch 1996, 410)

When we examine the book of Revelation, we discover the fate of all those cities which are the cities of man, cities built on bloodshed, murder and violence.

God is reminding the nations of the futility of building on a false foundation.

As a statement of fact, it could be a merely sententious observation that all the efforts of humankind come to nothing in the end. As a prediction, it forecasts the fate of all nations. (Anderson 2008, 244)

Revelation 16:18–20

“And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. Now the great city was divided into three parts, **and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.** Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.” (NKJV)

When the nations and the cities are judged, as we see in the book of Revelation, there is a new state that will exist globally.

Here that future state, when Messiah returns to planet earth and judgment of the cities of man has been accomplished, is prophesied.

Habakkuk 2:14

“For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea.” (NASB 2020)

“The earth is then full of the knowledge of the Lord, and the peace throughout all nature which has already been promised is one fruit of that knowledge. In Habakkuk, on the other hand, this knowledge is only secured through the overthrow of the kingdom of the world, and consequently only thereby will the earth be filled with it, and that not with the knowledge of Jehovah (as in Isaiah), but with the knowledge of His glory which is manifested in the judgment and overthrow of all ungodly powers (Isa. 2:12–21; 6:3)...” (Keil and Delitzsch 1996, 410)

Those cities which sought to glorify themselves on the backs and lives of others, will not succeed in doing so. They are working hard but their efforts are futile as the end for that city is destruction.

That government which thinks to glorify itself by its own achievements—by establishing a city or putting up public buildings or instituting new laws or providing services—and which does so by forced and unjust measures is making its subjects labor for that which cannot last, for that which is “nought,” and which will be burned up by the fire of God’s wrath. (Achte-meier 1986, 50)

All evil kingdoms will be judged by God.

Habakkuk 2:15–17

“Woe to him who makes his neighbor drink; To you who mix in your venom even to make your neighbors drunk, So as to look at their genitalia! You will be filled with disgrace rather than honor. Drink, you yourself, and expose your own foreskin! The cup in the LORD’S right hand will come around to you, And utter disgrace will come upon your glory. For the violence done to Lebanon will overwhelm you, And the devastation of its animals by which you terrified them, Because of human bloodshed and violence done to the land, To the town and all its inhabitants.” (NASB 2020)





Now the Lord moves on to another set of crimes seen not only in Babylon, but in the nations. It is human trafficking and the abuse connected with that. For Babylon, all they were doing was maintaining a common practice of the day. When taking prisoners, strip them and humiliate them. Make sure they understand that they are now our property.

This behavior is not limited only to this point in time but has been practiced by combatant forces over the centuries to include virtually every nation and indigenous tribal group. This is a sin problem arising from Genesis 3.

It appears though that the Babylonians, who we already know to have drinking problems, added to the atrocities they normally committed by forcing their victims to get drunk before subjecting them to physical abuse. Most likely, Babylon used rape as a weapon of war and as a means of humiliation, another practice used throughout history to include today.

Earlier we talked about their need to control others, when adding in sexual abuse, intoxication and exilic slavery, all this does is add further evidence onto the charges. Today we would add prostitution and pornography to this mix of human trafficking crimes. By the way, these are all items that the city of man is accused of in Revelation 18.

Their indulgence in the looking and disgracing others has now been turned around. Now they are the ones who are drinking and being exposed showing they are not members of the covenant people. They are not the just and are not believers. They would be humiliated in defeat.

Instead of parading around their prisoners, now they would be the ones who would be imprisoned, stripped, paraded around and abused.

Those who are not the just, would find themselves disgraced. The Lord graphically points out that there will be no mistaking who the gentiles are as a result of the disgraces they will suffer at the hands of their captors. Disgrace would fall upon their glory. Just look at how Babylon fell. Persia attacked while they were all drunk.

But as it was, the Persians were upon them unawares, and by reason of the great size of the city—so say those who dwell there—those in the outer parts of it were overcome, yet the dwellers in the middle part knew nothing of it; all this time they were dancing and making merry at a festival which chanced to be toward, till they learnt the truth but too well. (Herodotus 1975, 241)

The defeat of Babylon was so swift, it took several days until everyone knew. Most were too busy drinking.

It also appears that the Babylonians acted indiscriminately while moving through surrounding nations as well. God holds them accountable even to crimes against the environment.

Specific mention is made of what happened in Lebanon. Lebanon was more than a place that Babylon passed through on their way to Jerusalem or Egypt. They spent some time there in their attempt to conquer Tyre. This is referenced in Ezekiel 26:7 as well as in Ezekiel 29.

While in Lebanon they saw the vast number of raw materials that could be used. Due to all the building projects back home, lumber was needed so the countryside was clear cut in order to send the lumber back home. This damaged the ecology of Lebanon and the deforestation also removed habitat for various forms of wildlife. Those two items are listed first as well as the bloodshed that was conducted in Lebanon as well. When Babylon came, they brought murder and violence with them, and they violently exploited the land.

This will be no different with the Babylon of the beast during the Tribulation.



Habakkuk 2:18–20

““What benefit is a carved image when its maker has carved it, Or a cast metal image, a teacher of falsehood? For its maker trusts in his own handiwork When he fashions speechless idols. “Woe to him who says to a piece of wood, ‘Awake!’ To a mute stone, ‘Arise!’ That is your teacher? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, Yet there is no breath at all inside it. “But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him.”” (NASB 2020)

Babylon worshipped Marduk. He had been a really big deal there for centuries so Habakkuk relating YAHWEH's truth about him is very subversive.

The worship of Marduk in Babylon was not a new event, dating back as far as Eridu and the Tower of Babel.

Marduk's main sanctuary was located in the centre of Babylon and comprised a group of buildings, most notably the low temple Esagila and the temple tower (zig-gurat) Etemenanki. Between these two complexes ran the main processional street. Esagila contained the major shrines of Marduk and his wife Šarpanītu as well as a number of chapels dedicated to other gods. (Abusch 1999, 548)

Annually, a festival took place in Babylon called the Akitu festival. It was all about Marduk and took place at his supposed temple.

“Principal among the ritual events that should be mentioned here are: prayers for Babylon; divesting and re-investing the king before Marduk; ingathering of the gods from various cities to Babylon; gathering of the gods in assembly on two separate occasions in the shrine of destinies of the Nabû sanctuary for the purpose of determining destinies (parallel to the two assemblies in Enūma Elish, before and after the battle respectively); procession of Marduk and the other gods (with the king taking Marduk's hand) by way of the processional way and Ishtar's gate, and travel on the river to the Akitu house, where a banquet takes place.” (Abusch 1999, 548)

There is much more involved in the overall mythology of this false god. All other gods were subservient to this one so part of what Babylon did when they conquered a people is they brought that god to Babylon to serve Marduk.

Belshazzar's activity on the night he was killed was part of this. But there was already bad blood in the kingdom because his dad, Nabonidis, was trying to replace Marduk as the primary god with Sîn, the Babylonian moongod. In fact, it is possible that the party Belshazzar was at, was an akitu festival not for Marduk, but for Sîn, the moongod.

Because Nabonidus was fanatically devoted to Sîn at the expense of Marduk, he boycotted the akītu festival in Nisanu and favored the akītu festival in Tašritu. Belshazzar's feast as recorded in Daniel 5 therefore fits well, not only with what we know of the akītu festival of the moon god in Harran, Rash, and Ur, but also with what we know of the overall politics of the last years of Babylon. (Wolters, Belshazzar's Feast and the Cult Of the Moon God Sîn 1995, 206)

The drink was part of the reason for the downfall of Babylon, the worship of a false god another.

What benefit is a carved image, indeed, it cost Babylon everything. The condemnation of idolatry is something that the remnant, the just, would again be standing and cheering over.

To tie together that the ultimate downfall of Babylon involved idolatry and drunkenness as the ultimate.

Those reading this would recall Psalm 115 and the contrast between believers of the Lord versus the nations and their idolatry.



#### Psalm 115:4–8

“Their idols are silver and gold, The work of men’s hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see; They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell; They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat. Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them.” (NKJV)

The attempt to call an idol to awake or speak would also bring the faithful to recall the battle of Elijah versus the priests of Baal on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18).

“To expect guidance or teaching from a lifeless object, even if it is decorated with gold or silver, is to expect the impossible: it just will not happen. The actions of a foreign power are in the end driven by deeper religious convictions. Within the span of a few cryptic sentences Habakkuk makes a polemical mockery of powerless idols worshipped as gods by the Babylonians.” (Snyman 2020, 79) They are the no gods.

#### Habakkuk 2:20

“But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him.” (NASB 2020)

This is the true reality that is ignored by the people of Babylon, by those who are serving self and who are not the just.

YAHWEH is in His Holy Temple, He is on the throne. He is very much in charge.

Unlike Marduk, He has not been replaced by Sin, He is still God. Unlike the gods who are paraded before Marduk annually at the Akitu Festival, God parades before no one.

All the earth is to be silent before Him. The judgment has been announced out of the mouths of the oppressed nations, so we now await its execution (cf. Ps 76:8[9]). (Renz 2021, 329)

We, like Habakkuk, find ourselves looking at the culture around us and wondering out loud, along with Habakkuk, “How long?”

We are shown by the King of the Universe that even though we see the evil around us and yes, we do tend to get a bit anxious about it, He is truly in control. Those things that the world believes to be important, such as what they have, where they live, what their lifestyle choices are, when all is said and done, aren’t important at all.

God is on the throne. There is no other. Jesus Christ is returning for His own sooner than any of us imagine.

#### Psalm 11:4–7

“The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD’s throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man. The LORD tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence. Let him rain coals on the wicked; fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup. For the LORD is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face.” (ESV)



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