

The Book Of Habakkuk

Part 2

A Bible Study

By

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2:5

- 5 Yea also, because he transgresseth by wine, he is a proud man, neither keepeth at home, who enlargeth his desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people:

Human alternatives to faith

○ Faith

- Transgresses by wine
- Neither keeps at home (meaning he is always out searching for something to depend on.
- Enlarges his desire as hell and is as death, cannot be satisfied (meaning nothing satisfies the desire for relief.

Human alternatives to faith

◎ Faith

- ◎ Gathers him all nations, and heaps unto him all people (meaning he seeks relief through human connections and associations).

Verse 6

Meaning

Verse

- ◉ 6 Shall not all these take up a parable against him, and a taunting proverb against him, and say, Woe to him that increaseth that which is not his! how long? and to him that ladeth himself with thick clay!
- ◉ People will eventually laugh at the man who seeks relief in the things mentioned in verse 5. Such a person only increases burdens that are not his to bear in the first place. “How long will such a person ladeth himself with thick clay (burdens).”

God tells Habakkuk that He's still sending the Chaldeans

- 7 Shall they not rise up suddenly that shall bite thee, and awake that shall vex thee, and thou shalt be for booties unto them?

Verse 8

Meaning

Verse

- ◉ 8 Because thou hast spoiled many nations, all the remnant of the people shall spoil thee; because of men's blood, and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein.
- ◉ Some say that in verse 8 God is speaking to the Chaldeans warning them that they would face the Persians and be destroyed. Most agree that the “you” or “thou” in verse 8 is Judah. To divert from talking to Judah and then speak to the Chaldeans as “you” would violate textual continuity.

God's Wrath upon Man's Woes

- In verses 9-20, God expresses the reasons for Judah's pending doom.

Woe to the greedy

- 9 Woe to him that coveteth an evil covetousness to his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of evil!
- 10 Thou hast consulted shame to thy house by cutting off many people, and hast sinned against thy soul.
- 11 For the stone shall cry out of the wall, and the beam out of the timber shall answer it.

Verse 9 - 10

Meaning

Verse

- ◉ Woe to him that coveteth an evil covetousness to his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of evil! 10 Thou hast consulted shame to thy house by cutting off many people, and hast sinned against thy soul.
- ◉ God addressed the greedy man, and told him that he was ripe for judgment. He “coveteth and evil covetousness upon his own house.” The greedy man did his best to protect himself (set his nest on high), yet all his best defense would come to nothing. His faith is in what he has gained rather than God.

Verse 11

Meaning

Verse

- ◉ 11 For the stone shall cry out of the wall, and the beam out of the timber shall answer it.
- ◉ This is a proverbial statement saying that whatever is built out of greed will eventually be against the builder.

**God promises to
meet our need, not
our greed.**

Woe to the violent.

- 12 Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, and stablisheth a city by iniquity!
- 13 Behold, is it not of the Lord of hosts that the people shall labour in the very fire, and the people shall weary themselves for very vanity?
- 14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Verse 12

Meaning

Verse

- ◉ 12 Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, and stablisheth a city by iniquity!
- ◉ The violence that God despised is not simply domestic or street violence. God despised governmental violence that builds cities, towns, states, and nations with blood.

Verse 13

Meaning

Verse

- 13 Behold, is it not of the Lord of hosts that the people shall labour in the very fire, and the people shall weary themselves for very vanity?
- The Lord of hosts will bring to nothing everything that is produced through violent measures and the people would have labored in vain.

Verse 14

Meaning

verse

- 14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.
- Ultimately, God will get the Glory.

Woe to the drunkards

- ◉ 15 Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that puttest thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!
- ◉ 16 Thou art filled with shame for glory: drink thou also, and let thy foreskin be uncovered: the cup of the Lord's right hand shall be turned unto thee, and shameful spewing shall be on thy glory.
- ◉ 17 For the violence of Lebanon shall cover thee, and the spoil of beasts, which made them afraid, because of men's blood, and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein.

Verse 15

Meaning

Verse

- ◉ 15 Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!
- ◉ Refers to getting people drunk and then taking advantage of them. “Looking upon their nakedness” is not specifically referring to that which is sexual but to any vulnerability.

Verse 16

Meaning

Verse

- ◉ 16 Thou art filled with shame for glory: drink thou also, and let thy foreskin be uncovered: the cup of the Lord's right hand shall be turned unto thee, and shameful spewing shall be on thy glory.
- ◉ “Drink thou also and let thy foreskin be uncovered” means that taking advantage of thy neighbor brings shame upon Judah and they are acting as if they were uncircumcised. The idea of being uncircumcised to a Jew was to be deemed a heathen and not belonging to God.

Woe to Idolaters

- Verses 18-20

18 What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols?

19 Woe unto him that saith to the wood, Awake; to the dumb stone, Arise, it shall teach! Behold, it is laid over with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in the midst of it.

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

Verses 18-19

Meaning

verses

- 18 What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols?
- 19 Woe unto him that saith to the wood, Awake; to the dumb stone, Arise, it shall teach! Behold, it is laid over with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in the midst of it.
- God concludes his disappointments with Judah. They had been greedy, violent, drunkards, and worse of all they had been idolaters. Habakkuk has the audacity to file a complaint against God.

Verse 20

Meaning

Verse

- ◉ 20 But the Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.
- ◉ After pointing out all the ungodly acts that Judah had done and even though the Chaldeans would come, God is still in His holy temple and none, including Habakkuk, has the right to accuse him of being unjust. “Let all the earth”, including Habakkuk, keep silence before Him.