

Crossroads Baptist Church  
September 23, 2007 10:00  
Habakkuk 2:5-20  
Habakkuk Series #7

## “The Glory of God Revealed in Judgment”

Habakkuk had the issue with God that nothing was being done about the sins of the Jewish people; then God told him that he would judge them using the Chaldeans; then Habakkuk was upset that God would use a people more wicked than Israel; now God wants Habakkuk to know that even the Chaldeans will be judged

In these verses God presents five woes

### I. The Judgment of God will be released.

In these verses he gives us a vivid blow-by-blow description of what the Babylonians are like.

He begins in verse five with how arrogant they are always never coming to rest but always wanting more power and that this power is fueled by wine.

The Babylonians were known for their addiction to wine. In fact, you remember the last night of the Babylonian Empire years later they were having this great drunken orgy. God sent the handwriting on the wall and said, “Your days are numbered. Your kingdom is over.” (Daniel 5).

Proverbs 20:1 “Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.”

This is not a message on the use of alcohol, but let it be sufficient to say that abstinence is the best policy when it comes to the use of alcohol. If you don’t ever start, you don’t have to stop.

Their quest for more power never finds satisfaction. Always wanting more.

Then in verse six he introduces a word that he uses several times in the balance of the chapter, the word “Woe.” A woe is a pronouncement of divine judgment.

Let’s quickly look at the five woes upon the Chaldeans. The five woes stand as a testimony to the paths toward a ruined nation. Each of these woes are described followed by the consequences for that behavior. And in each case, the punishment matches the sin.

#### 1. Woe of materialism 2:6-8

Woe: the greed for acquisition, gain by extortion.  
Punishment: These nations will turn on you and plunder you.

#### 2. Woe of covetousness 2:9-11

Woe: Their self-exaltation. They would build these strong cities that would make them invincible. They got it by getting evil gain to build their houses, by illegal, unethical, immoral practices.  
Punishment: You are getting shame and you are forfeiting life. You thought you were getting honor by these big houses; but you are really getting shame. You thought you would be safe and enjoy life; but you are forfeiting your own life. In verse 11, even the brick and mortar will cry out against you.

#### 3. Woe of humanism 2:12-14

Woe: You build up your kingdom through violence and corruption. They are building their own kingdom.  
Punishment: All of this is for vain.

#### 4. Woe of Immorality 2:15-17

Woe: They made others drink so they could look upon their nakedness engaging in sexual immorality. They thought that had the glorious empire, the glory era.  
Punishment: You will be exposed to show forth their uncircumcision and their glory will be brought to shame.

#### 5. Woe of Idolatry 2:18-20

Woe: They have committed idolatry. They have made idols out of wood and puts their trust in their own creation. See the word “trust.” That is the whole issue of life – in whom or what do you put your trust? If you trust in your money; children; spouse; economy; government; church; denomination; yourself – you are an idol worshiper. You are trusting in your own creation and the point, “How stupid is that?”  
Punishment: There is no profit in such. You speak to them “Awake! Arise! Do something!” but they are useless, speechless  
In contrast, our Lord is in His holy temple. He is high and holy and exalted.

### II. The Glory of God will be revealed.

In verse 14 is one of the great statements of the Old Testament. But look at it in the context of verses 12-14. Babylonian is building her kingdom and thinking it will last forever. But, in verse 13, it will be in vain.

But the knowledge of the glory of God will fill the earth. God's justice will be revealed and His truth will prevail.

Isaac Watts wrote:

*Jesus shall reign where're the sun,  
Does its successive journeys run.  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore.  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.*

Every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God!!

### **III. The mouth of man will be stopped.**

Verse 20 is one of the most misunderstood and misapplied verses in the Bible, especially when it comes to worship.

Have you ever heard anyone say, "We need to be quiet. God is on His throne, let us be silent." So they want to turn their churches into monastery and mortuaries. They want it to look more like a place for the dead than the living.

This has nothing to do with a public worship service, instead, its more of a rebuke to Habakkuk.

Habakkuk had earlier cried out, "God, why do you hold your tongue?" (1:13). Now God is telling Habakkuk, "Habakkuk, you hold your tongue." You have accused me of being unfair and unjust, but it would be better to know that "the Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him."

In essence the text says, "God is on the throne, let all the world shut up!"

And its in reference to verse 19 when the Babylonians are crying out for their gods to do something. Our God is active.

So, stop complaining. Stop wrestling. Stop doubting. Stop questioning God.

He is not asleep. He is not slumbering. He's awake. He's alert. He's alive. He's active. He is working right now in your life, on your behalf, in your circumstances, in your home, in our church, in our world. He is on His throne.

He will accomplish His plans in His time.