

# Habakkuk 2:18-20

## #5 - Habakkuk 2:18-20

2:18 "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!

2:19 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.

2:20 But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him."

|                            |                  |                        |                      |          |           |                  |          |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------|-----------|------------------|----------|
| 3384 [e]                   | 4541 [e]         | 3336 [e]               | 6458 [e]             | 3588 [e] | 6459 [e]  | 3276 [e]         | 4100 [e] |
| ū·mō·w·reh                 | mas·sê·kâh       | yō·ṣə·rōw,             | pə·sā·lōw            | kî       | pe·sel,   | hō·w·'lî         | māh-     |
| וּמוֹרֵה                   | מִסְכָּה         | יָצְרוֹ                | פָּסְלוֹ             | כִּי     | פֶסֶל     | הוֹעִיל          | מָה      |
| and a teacher              | the molded image | its maker              | should carve it      | that     | the image | profit is        | What     |
| Conj-w   V-Hifil-Prtcpl-ms | N-fs             | V-Qal-Prtcpl-msc   3ms | V-Qal-Perf-3ms   3ms | Conj     | N-ms      | V-Hifil-Perf-3ms | Interrog |

|         |             |           |                    |            |             |                 |                |          |
|---------|-------------|-----------|--------------------|------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|----------|
| 483 [e] | 457 [e]     | 6213 [e]  | 5921 [e]           | 3335 [e]   | 3335 [e]    | 982 [e]         | 3588 [e]       | 8267 [e] |
| s       | 'il·lə·mîm. | 'ē·lî·lîm | la·'ā·śō·wṭ        | 'ā·lāw,    | yiṣ·rōw     | yō·ṣēr          | bā·taḥ         | kî       |
| ס       | אַלְמִים    | אֱלִילִים | לַעֲשׂוֹת          | עָלָיו     | יָצְרוֹ     | יַצֵּר          | בָּטַח         | כִּי     |
| -       | mute        | idols     | to make            | in it      | of its mold | the maker       | should trust   | that     |
| Punc    | Adj-mp      | N-mp      | Prep-I   V-Qal-Inf | Prep   3ms | N-msc   3ms | V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms | V-Qal-Perf-3ms | Conj     |

|                    |          |          |                |              |                      |                    |                 |              |
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| 3384 [e]           | 1931 [e] | 1748 [e] | 68 [e]         | 5782 [e]     | 6974 [e]             | 6086 [e]           | 559 [e]         | 1945 [e]     |
| yō·w·reh,          | hū       | dū·mām;  | lə·'e·ben      | 'ū·rî        | hā·qî·śāh,           | lā·'êṣ             | 'ō·mêr          | hō·w         |
| יֹוֵרֵה            | הוּא     | דוֹמָם   | לְאֶבֶן        | עוֹרִי       | הַקִּיֵּץ            | לְעֵץ              | אֹמֵר           | הוֹי         |
| shall teach        | it       | silent   | to stone       | Arise        | Awake                | to wood            | to him who says | Woe          |
| V-Hifil-Imperf-3ms | Pro-3ms  | Adv      | Prep-I   N-fsc | V-Qal-Imp-fs | V-Hifil-Imp-ms   3fs | Prep-I, Art   N-ms | V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms | Interjection |

|                      |             |          |                |               |           |                        |          |              |
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| 7130 [e]             | 369 [e]     | 7307 [e] | 3605 [e]       | 3701 [e]      | 2091 [e]  | 8610 [e]               | 1931 [e] | 2009 [e]     |
| bə·qir·bōw.          | 'ên         | rū·aḥ    | wə·kāl         | wā·ḵe·seṗ,    | zā·hāḇ    | tā·pūs                 | hū,      | hin·nêh-     |
| בְּקִרְבוֹ           | אֵין        | רוּחַ    | וְכָל־         | וְכֶסֶף       | זָהָב     | תְּפוּשׁ               | הוּא     | הִנֵּה       |
| in it                | there is no | breath   | and yet at all | and silver    | with gold | overlaid               | it [is]  | behold       |
| Prep-b   N-msc   3ms | Adv         | N-cs     | Conj-w   N-msc | Conj-w   N-ms | N-ms      | V-Qal-QalPassPrtcpl-ms | Pro-3ms  | Interjection |

|         |            |          |                      |                  |             |                |
|---------|------------|----------|----------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 776 [e] | 3605 [e]   | 6440 [e] | 2013 [e]             | 6944 [e]         | 1964 [e]    | 3068 [e]       |
| p       | hā·'ā·reṣ. | kāl-     | mip·pā·nāw           | has              | qā·ḏə·šōw;  | bə·hê·kal      |
| פ       | הָאָרֶץ    | כָּל־    | מִפְּנֵי             | הֵס              | קִדְשׁוֹ    | בְּהֵיכַל      |
| -       | the earth  | all      | before Him           | let keep silence | His holy    | in temple      |
| Punc    | Art   N-fs | N-msc    | Prep-m   N-cpc   3ms | Interjection     | N-msc   3ms | Prep-b   N-msc |

|                      |
|----------------------|
| 20                   |
| Yah·weh              |
| But Yahweh is        |
| Conj-w   N-proper-ms |

1. The word for “Woe” – *hoy* - is in the second verse for this 5<sup>th</sup> of five woes or ahah or taunting proverbs.
2. There is no announcement of a judgment for the action in this woe.
3. The focus is on the worthlessness of idols.
  - a. What profit is an idol?
  - b. An idol is shaped by its maker.
  - c. It is a metal image.
    - i. There is no life
    - ii. There is no understanding
    - iii. A false philosophy is merely lifeless, ignorant image.
  - d. An idol is a teacher of lies.
    - i. Any information coming from a false philosophy is a lie
  - e. The maker of an idol trusts the idol or image they made.
    - i. The maker is trusting in himself by trusting the work of his hands.
    - ii. There is no divine power.
    - iii. There is depreciated human power manifesting in a lifeless image.
    - iv. The only power is deceived perception of an empty power that is mere vanity.
  - f. An idol is the creation of its maker.
    - i. A false philosophy is merely the image of the thoughts of its creator.
    - ii. A false philosophy is limited to the input of the maker.
    - iii. A false philosophy cannot lift up its maker or provide any actual benefit
    - iv. Any apparent benefit is emotional or perceived. It is imagined at best, and deceptively dangerous at best. It cannot be trusted or depended on.
  - g. An idol is speechless.
    - i. A false philosophy cannot form thoughts or develop patterns of truth to benefit its creator.
    - ii. A false philosophy cannot present answers or provide direction.
  - h. The maker trust the speechless image he made.
    - i. (A false philosophy can only reflect what the creator of that false philosophy wants it to reflect.)
4. “Woe” or “ahah!” or “ah!” which begins the taunting of this behavior by stating the obvious wisdom proverb or a hidden riddle with double meaning used to mock the person practicing idol worship.
  - a. They are saying to wood “awake”
  - b. They are saying to “arise”
5. “Can this teach?” or “Can the false philosophy you formed help you?”
6. “Teaching” is truth. There is no life and no truth in an idol. You are doomed.
7. “give guidance” is **yoreh**.
8. “idols that cannot speak” is **elilim illemim** which phonetically imitates nonsensical babble as in Isaiah 28:10.
9. It is ridiculous to think an idol (false reality) can replace the Lord (Truth and Reality).