

Habakkuk 2 - "The Righteous Will Live By His Faith"

God is always doing 10,000 things in your life, and you may be aware of only 3 of them. (John Piper)

Background to Habakkuk 2

- Habakkuk 1 focused on: TRIAL, PROBLEMS, CONFUSION
- Habakkuk 2 focuses on: TRUST, PERSPECTIVE, CONVICTION

Here in Habakkuk 2, there are a lot of intertextual allusions that interplay together here. Habakkuk is building upon Isaiah. And, Isaiah builds upon Psalms & Samuel.

- *Habakkuk is going to speak of Babylon's demise. Not only at *that* time, but also pointing to the end-times era.
Jeremiah 50-51 speaks most clearly of this full & complete demise (still future)
Revelation 17-18 speaks of the Great Harlot, Babylon & her final demise (end of 7-year Tribulation period)*
- *There is a lot of theology, intertextual allusions/echoes, providence of God, prophecies from God, and promises of deliverance!*

THESIS — Habakkuk 2 is a chapter where GOD GIVES CLARITY as to how to live, how to think & how to hope.

God wants you to watch, trust, know & hope.

It's a chapter about Trust, Faith, Perspective.

I. GOD CALLS YOU TO WATCH! (1-3)

Your observation

Don't lose hope! Keep trusting! Keep alert! God will answer.

II. GOD CALLS YOU TO TRUST! (4)

Your conviction

This is the “watchword of Christianity, the key to the whole book of Habakkuk & the central theme of all the Scriptures” (Charles Feinberg).

III. GOD CALLS YOU TO KNOW! (5-20)

Your consideration

- Now we have a 5-fold series of **funeral dirge/laments** on the Babylonians/Chaldeans.
- Woe = a lamentation; a cry of lament; a cry of judgment.
- It referred to a “funeral dirge” — it was used of mourning for the dead at a funeral (1 Kings 13.30)

❖5 “Woe” pronouncements [upon Babylon]:

1. Woe for **GREED/AGGRESSION** — intimidation (6-8)
2. Woe for **EXPLOITATION/EXTORTION** — evil gain; intemperance (9-11)
3. Woe for **VIOLENCE** — iniquity, hatred, murder, evil (2:12-14)
4. Woe for **IMMORALITY** — indignity/seduction, selfishness (2:15-17)
So bad is this: they will drink the “cup of the Lord’s wrath” (v.16b; Jer 25.15, 17)
5. Woe for **IDOLATRY** — idolatry (2:18-20) — v.18 - ‘what profit is there’? No breath (Ps 115; Ps 135)

Jer 51.24 - God says: I will repay Babylon for all their evil!

IV. GOD CALLS YOU TO HOPE! (14)

Your expectation

- 1 Peter 1.21 - your “faith & your hope are in GOD”
- Heb 11.1 - faith is the assurance of things *hoped for*!
- We are called to live by faith & have HOPE!

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Babylon is momentary and will be burned up.

Contrast that with God's kingdom.

*** God's glory WILL fill the earth.**

- God's glory will fill the earth. This is built on/alluding to Isaiah 11.9 (cf. 11.1-9)
- GOD will overthrow future Babylon (Rev 17-18; Jer 50-51) and then his glory will fill the earth.
- When the Messiah rules in His kingdom, knowledge of the LORD will be worldwide. — > worldwide; expansive; thorough; unmistakable; righteous; peaceful.
- This will occur in the Millennium when the Messiah will be reigning (Isa 9.6-7)
- Jerusalem will have the prominence in the world (Isa 2.2)
- and Judah and Israel will be regathered to the land in belief and repentance (Zech 12-14) and will be living according to the New Covenant (Ezek 36-37, 40-48)
- The Millennium can hardly be in existence now since these factors do not characterize the present age.

Why all this about the glory of the LORD filling the earth in v.14? It gives steadfast Hope that our God decrees, rules, reigns, governs & brings all things to pass according to His Will. So, then, we joyfully and resolutely "live by faith."

Conclusion:

- God's message is clear to Habakkuk. **Stop** complaining. **Stop** doubting.
- God is *not* indifferent to sin. God is not absent, God is not far off. God is not apathetic or uninterested. He is in fact in control. He is perfect.

...[The disciples strengthened] strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God (Acts 14.22)

BY FAITH

By faith we see the hand of God
In the light of creation's grand design
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness
Who walk by faith and not by sight
By faith our fathers roamed the earth
With the power of His promise in their hearts
Of a holy city built by God's own hand
A place where peace and justice reign

**We will stand as children of the promise
We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward
Till the race is finished and the work is done
We'll walk by faith and not by sight**

By faith the prophets saw a day
When the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the power to break the chains of sin and death
And rise triumphant from the grave

By faith the church was called to go
In the power of the Spirit to the lost
To deliver captives and to preach good news
In every corner of the earth

By faith this mountain shall be moved
And the power of the gospel shall prevail
For we know in Christ all things are possible
For all who call upon His name

SOLDIERS OF CHRIST ARISE

To the tune of: Crown Him with many crowns

Soldiers of Christ, arise,
And put your armor on,
Strong in the strength which God supplies
Through His eternal Son.
Strong in the Lord of hosts,
And in His mighty power,
Who in the strength of Jesus trusts
Is more than conqueror.

Stand then against your foes,
In close and firm array;
Legions of wily fiends oppose
Throughout the evil day;
But meet the sons of night,
And mock their vain design,
Armed in the arms of heavenly light,
Of righteousness divine.

Jesus hath died for you!
What can His love withstand?
Believe, hold fast your shield, and who
Shall pluck you from His hand?
Believe that Jesus reigns,
All power to Him is given:
Believe, till freed from sin's remains;
Believe yourselves to Heaven.

Pray without ceasing, pray,
Your captain gives the word;
His summons cheerfully obey
And call upon the Lord;
To God your every want
In instant prayer display,
Pray always; pray and never faint,
Pray, without ceasing, pray!