

Message #5**Habakkuk 2:5-20**

Habakkuk was frustrated because it appeared to him that God was indifferent to sin. It appeared to him that God was indifferent to suffering and that God was totally inactive and letting evil, greedy, immoral people just drift through life unscathed. Habakkuk saw a bunch of drunken, immoral politicians who were getting rich by doing corrupt things and they seemed to be getting away with everything. Then he was shocked when God said, "I am actually using these types of people to accomplish My purposes." So in this section, God says no they aren't.

GOD GUARANTEES TO HIS PEOPLE THAT HIS MOST SEVERE TYPES OF JUDGMENT WILL COME AGAINST ARROGANT, GOD-MOCKING, POLITICAL POWERS AND INDIVIDUALS, WHO DISREGARD HIM AND HIS WORD; AND EVENTUALLY IT WILL BE GOD'S PEOPLE WHO WILL BE SCOFFING AT THE ARROGANT, AND THE JUST MAY LIVE BY FAITH KNOWING THIS AND BELIEVING THIS.

God says you need to trust Me that I am in sovereign charge and that I am watching the evil and I will do something about it. The just believe that and trust that.

PROPHETIC FACT #1 – God is sovereign over the most arrogant God-mocker in the world.
2:5

In **verse 5** God gives a general overview of exactly the kind of person he is monitoring and using. He said I want you to know, Habakkuk, I am in complete, sovereign control of even the ultimate of arrogant God-mockers. Now I believe this has ramifications not just to Nebuchadnezzar, but also the Antichrist, who is the ultimate arrogant blasphemer. God is basically saying you need to know I am even in sovereign charge over those boys. These are the kinds of people who manifest five traits you would never think God would use:

Trait #1 - The arrogant drink wine and his arrogance betrays him. **2:5a**

This is clearly a reference to the drunken parties thrown by the Babylonians in which they would take the temple bowls and drink out of them at their drunken orgies. Nebuchadnezzar took gold vessels (Dan. 1:2); Belshazzar used them for his drunken parties (Dan. 5:2).

Trait #2 - The arrogant person does not stay at home, he is out on the prowl. **2:5b**

One who is arrogant is out on the town and on the move, looking to score more money, power, votes, and sex.

Trait #3 - The arrogant person enlarges his appetite like Sheol. **2:5c**

This is important because one who is arrogant is not interested in affecting others for the truth and glory of God; this kind of person is trying to influence others even to the point they end up in hell.

Trait #4 - The arrogant person is never satisfied with anything. **2:5d**
He wants more and more, just like death.

Trait #5 - The arrogant person wants to gather nations. **2:5e**

It is clear to me from these traits that what you have here is a God-mocking, arrogant, deceitful politician who is out to pull more and more people away from God. God says I use a person like that now and then; but when I get done using them, they become the specific target of My anger and wrath.

In fact, **verse 6** opens with the important truth that **eventually it will be God's people doing the taunting against the God-mocking, corrupt politician**. There will come a time, as **verse 14** says, when the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, and when that happens roles will be reversed.

PROPHETIC FACT #2 – God will pour out His most severe judgments on arrogant God-mockers. **2:6-20**

Now carefully observe that he specifically targets these arrogant people with “woe” judgments (**2:6, 9, 12, 15, 19**). A “woe” judgment is the worst judgment and most ferocious judgment of God. The worst judgments of the Tribulation are “woe” judgments (Rev. 8:13). If I were a politician today, I would carefully read this text and give serious thought to what it says. If you do not use your power to turn people to God and His Word and truth, you will be specifically targeted for horrible judgments from the God you mocked:

Woe Judgment #1 - God will send a woe judgment against one who made himself rich by taking advantage of others. **2:6b-8**

Now in the immediate context, the “all these” of **verse 6** refers to all of those who were victimized by the Babylonians. This will be a taunt-song about the Babylonians. The Babylonians came into areas and just took what did not belong to them. They were after wealth; lots of it. They wanted to be rich and they would do anything to become wealthy including violent bloodshed.

The fact is God did let the Babylonians do this for a while as a punishment against His own people. But God says My people can know this; there will come a day when they will be the one doing the laughing. There will come a day when My people will be rich and those who did the wrong will be in total poverty.

God says there will come a day when My people will actually see and share in the judgment against the ruthless rich. God will put the bite on them suddenly. Cyrus did it in one night. In 539 B.C., the Medes and Persians attacked and overthrew Babylon while Belshazzar was leading Babylon in a drunken orgy (Dan. 5).

Woe Judgment #2 - God will send a woe judgment against one who exalted himself by disgraceful and shameful ways. **2:9-11**

This is a woe judgment against a politician's greed, who gains things by doing shameful things for the people of their own house, family or nation.

Politicians who are greedy will do horrible things and promote horrible things that actually hurt their own constituency.

There are arrogant leaders who will do anything for a lofty exaltation of themselves and their family. There are arrogant leaders who will promote sinful and shameful things for their own political and financial elevation.

There are those who will do anything to get elected to office, including that which is corrupt and hurtful to others. In fact, when **verse 10** says that this type of leader has "cut off many peoples," I understand it to mean he has cut off many people from the blessings of God. In fact, there is Babylonian inscription in which Nebuchadnezzar prays to Marduk that he would bless him and his family.

This would be like having a President who prays to Allah or a Presidential nominee who prays to the Mormon Heavenly Father. What an arrogant disgrace to the True living God. When you have a political leader who hurts his own people and family for his own gain and moves them away from God, that leader is heading to serious judgment.

God says to Habakkuk, "I am sovereign in using this leader, but I want My people to know that eventually I will bring down their whole world. I will cause their house to collapse."

Verse 11 describes the actual house of Nebuchadnezzar that would come down. There was actual writing on the wall (Daniel 5) and God sent His judgment.

This may refer to an actual targeting of the leader's family. We certainly cannot deny the historical reality that something odd has happened in a political family like the Kennedy's. As we mentioned in Amos, it is almost like there is a curse on that family. Well, who is in a position to target a family? God.

Woe Judgment #3 - God will send a woe judgment against one who prospers by hurting and harming and destroying others. **2:12-14**

This is a woe judgment against violent gain. So many people and powers have wasted their time fretting and worrying about what they have. They will do anything to try to prosper in order to get more and more. They will invest lifetimes taking and achieving. Our lives and our existence should be about glorifying the God who gave us life.

There will come a day when most people of the nations of the world will realize we worked, fretted and achieved “for nothing” (v. 13).

There are many politicians who are trying to prosper based on bloodshed. They support and promote abortion and the homosexual agenda. They are building their little nest egg by getting people to elect them to office based on doing things evil.

Anything we are and have is from the Lord of hosts (v. 13). It is not by our ruthless achievements; it is from the Lord of hosts.

When the text says, “they toil for fire” what I understand that to mean is that they are focused on their own success and their own works to achieve more and more and all they are doing is heading to the fires of hell. They just live by faith trusting in Jesus Christ, and they do not in their works.

One day the earth will be filled with the knowledge of God and all will realize this. Judgment will come. That day will be when Jesus Christ is here reigning on this earth.

Woe Judgment #4 - God will send a woe judgment against one who pursued drunkenness and immorality. **2:15-17**

This is a woe judgment against debauchery. Verse 15 describes the lifestyle of many politicians, leaders and people who are heading to judgment. They go drink so they can weaken the senses of others so they can pursue immoral behavior.

People who go to bars looking for happiness are going to the wrong place. Many a man and many a woman has ended up in some mess because they went to a bar had some drinks and ended up in some immoral relationship.

Now what is described here are political leaders who actually sponsor parties to let the booze flow so they can break down defenses for immoral purposes.

Drinking too much alcohol leads to the grossest forms of immorality. It breaks down defenses and it breaks down morals. The truth is drunkenness and immorality goes hand in hand. There have been many immoral things done when a person is drunk that they would not do if they were sober.

Now it is no coincidence that drunkenness is brought up here because the Babylonians were known for their drunken immoral parties. Rome was known for the same thing and frankly today so is the United States.

Now **verse 16** is very clear; drunkenness and immorality leads to disgrace and it will lead to judgment. God will never bless a drunk and eventually one who is a drunk will be exposed.

God warns I will ultimately bring down the person who is involved in this kind of activity. The person who is out drinking in order to lure someone to immorality will be targeted by God for His judgment. Not only will this activity lead to literal nakedness, but also literal disgrace. (Hebrew word relates to vomit.) Arrogant political leaders in God's mind are pukes.

We have high-ranking politicians who use their office not to glorify God, but to promote their own self-indulgent desires. Some of these politicians who appear to be so successful and disciplined cannot even keep their clothes on. They are God-mocking pukes heading to judgment.

Now the "for" of **verse 17** grammatically connects to the previous verses, so I would understand this to mean that violence also is another offshoot of drunkenness. But regardless, what God is promising is that those who use their political power and office for drunken immoral purposes will become the specific target of the violent judgment of God.

Woe Judgment #5 - God will send a woe judgment against one who promoted idolatry.
2:18-20

This is a woe against idolatry. Drunkenness and immorality and violence are terrible evils that will bring the judgment of God, but there is one that is even worse than these and that is idolatry.

Every political leader in the world had better pay attention to this point—if you do not move your constituency toward the true God of the Bible and you move them away from Him, God will eventually target you and blast you to bits.

The thing that brings a nation down is religious apostasy. When people move away from God and His Word, it leads to moral depravity and arrogant political evil. People begin to trust in dumb idols.

In **verse 18** God says of what value is there to an idol? The answer is zero. No matter what the idol is, it is lifeless.

Now there are many leaders who will teach you to invest your whole life chasing after something lifeless and worship something other than God. There are many who will tell you to worship your dream; worship money; worship your career; worship your success; worship your fame. None of those things will give you life or happiness, but this is what leaders tell you. However, very few will tell you go after the God of the Bible. Worship Him.

God pronounces a woe judgment on those who invest their lives in worshipping something other than Him. You can make gold or silver your god, but in the end, you will discover they could not give you life and they were dead-end streets.

Now **verse 20** is important because while all this sin and stuff is going on, God is in His Holy Temple monitoring, calculating controlling.

What Habakkuk could know and what we may know is that God is in His Holy Temple sovereignly governing all things, including the political leaders who are arrogant and evil. So “let all the earth be silent before Him.”

So while we wait for God to blast these God-mockers, let us do less and less talking and more and more believing. The just live by faith knowing what God will do.

Can you imagine what the world would be like if it just quieted down before God? It just trusted that God is keeping track in Heaven and one day He will judge the earth and He will pronounce woe judgments on all who mock Him. God is still on His Throne and there will come a day when all the earth will be silent before Him.

It is clear that God intends to come to fill the earth with the knowledge of God. This verse is a law court and the man is sitting before a judge and the judgment is coming. This is not a call to worship. This is a call against those who have mocked Him.