

## Habakkuk 2

Habakkuk had filed His complaint with God in chapter 1.

1. The righteous are retreating in Judah
2. The wicked are advancing in Judah
3. And you are seemingly absent in Judah
  - a. You do not hear when I call upon you
  - b. You do not help even when I scream out to you
  - c. Where are you?

God responded by assuring Habakkuk that He was working.

1. He was actually orchestrating a major event at that moment.
2. He was raising up the Chaldeans to discipline and administer His judgment upon His chosen people.

Though Habakkuk responded to this revelation by faith, he just couldn't wrap his mind around this.

1. He is wrestling through his doubts honestly
2. Now we find Habakkuk waiting to hear what God might say to him in chapter 2.

### Verse 1

1. Habakkuk might have had in mind the position of the city watchman
2. Ezekiel 33:1-7

### Verse 2

Habakkuk, as God's watchman, must make the vision known by writing it upon tablets.

1. These were tablets covered with wax, on which national affairs were engraved, and then hung up in public that those who passed might read them...and in this case run.
  - a. Run from the bad news...the Chaldeans are coming to judge
  - b. Run to share the good news...God will have the last word
    1. The Chaldeans will pay for how they treat Judah
    2. Judah will be delivered and preserved.

### Verse 3

This vision is certain, so hang on to this hope of future good news during the present bad news.

This vision is 2 fold.

1. Babylon will fall
2. The righteous will live

## I. Babylon will Fall

Verse 4

1. The proud one...the haughty man is Babylon
2. The Babylonians were puffed up with pride over their military might. 1:11
  - a. Drunkenness corrupts them v5a
  - b. Discontent characterized them v5b
  - c. Death and Destruction came with them v5c 1:6-9

Verse 1:11 God lists the sins of the Chaldeans, for which He's going to punish them and identifies them with 5 woes. We are not going to dwell here... but we need to see this.

1. **Greed:** v6b-8—Babylon will be plundered by those it has plundered
2. **Exploitation:** v9-11—their security will become unsecured
3. **Crimes against Humanity:** v12-14—their civilization will be replaced with devastation
4. **Drunkenness:** v15-17—your drunken shamelessness will be turned to shame
5. **Idolatry:** v18-20—their idols are exposed as worthless in light of the Lord

Literal Babylon, literally fell because of these literal sins, but don't miss this: **Babylon is ultimately a picture of this sinful world that will eventually fall and fold under the mighty judgment of God.**

- a. Revelation 14:8
- b. Revelation 16:19 Habakkuk 2:16b
- c. Revelation 18:2
- d. Revelation 18:10
- e. Revelation 18:21

Babylon is nothing but a picture of our own sinful world that will eventually fall and fold under the mighty judgment of God

1. Habakkuk's vision is as valid today as it was then.
2. Be certain that Babylon, this anti-Christ world system will eventually fall and fold under the mighty judgment of our great God.

## II. The Righteous will Live Verse 4

Obviously, this verse is a key verse in Habakkuk. This is such a key verse that it is also referenced in the New Testament in 3 places. I want us to spend the rest of our time looking at this verse through the lens of the NT.

### 1. Righteous Faith Puts no Confidence in Your Performance

a. Galatians 3:10-11 *For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM." 11 Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, "THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."*

1. Note the words "cursed is everyone"
2. Note the words "perform them" (all things written in the book of the law)
3. Note the words "no one is justified"
  - a. You cannot be justified by your performance!
  - b. You can only be cursed by your failures and imperfect attempts
4. Literally, "the one who is righteous by faith shall live."

- b. Put no confidence in your performance

## 2. Righteous Faith Puts full Confidence in His Power

a. Romans 1:16-17 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."*

1. Gospel is the power of God for salvation.
2. Without salvation, we are lost and headed for hell
3. Without the power of God there is no salvation and therefore we are lost and headed for hell
4. Without the gospel, there is no power of God and thus no salvation and thus we are lost and headed for hell.
5. Have you understood and believed and embraced the gospel? How are you saved?
6. THE GOSPEL

b. Put full confidence in His Power

## 3. Righteous Faith Perseveres until the End

a. Hebrews 10:37-39 *FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE, HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY. 38 BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM. 39 But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.*

1. He will not delay
2. Habakkuk 2:3, 4

b. The righteous one shall live by faith...present tense, persevering faith!

Babylon, this world system, will fall. But the one who is righteous by faith will live.

1. The one who puts no confidence in his performance
2. The one who puts all confidence in the power of the gospel
3. The one who perseveres until the fulfilling of the vision will live

### Conclusion:

1. Are you more like a Chaldean or a Christian?
2. Are you more like Babylon that will fall, or the righteous who lives by faith?

Would you believe, embrace, and respond to the gospel this morning, by faith, and be made righteous in His sight?

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What did you learn about God in this sermon and in the biblical texts used? About Christ? About the Holy Spirit?
2. What did you learn about yourself in this sermon and in the texts used?
3. Were there any clear promises or commands in the biblical texts used?
4. What is the hardest truth that stands out to you from this message or the verses referenced?
5. What is the most impactful point or statement from the sermon?
6. How can you respond to this message?