

## Bibles???

### The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let's pray...

[Hab 2:1-20 NKJV] 1 I will stand my watch And set myself on the rampart, And watch to see what He will say to me, **And what I will answer when I am corrected.** 2 Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision And make [it] plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it. 3 For the vision [is] yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. **Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry.** 4 "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; **But the just shall live by his faith.** 5 "Indeed, because he transgresses by wine, [He is] a proud man, And he does not stay at home. Because he enlarges his desire as hell, And he [is] like death, and cannot be satisfied, He gathers to

himself all nations And heaps up for himself all peoples. 6

"Will not all these take up a proverb against him, And a

taunting riddle against him, and say, 'Woe to him who

increases [What] is not his--how long? And to him who loads

himself with many pledges'? 7 Will not your creditors rise up

suddenly? Will they not awaken who oppress you? And you

will become their booty. 8 Because you have plundered many

nations, All the remnant of the people shall plunder you,

Because of men's blood And the violence of the land [and] the

city, And of all who dwell in it. 9 "Woe to him who covets evil

gain for his house, That he may set his nest on high, That he

may be delivered from the power of disaster! 10 You give

shameful counsel to your house, Cutting off many peoples,

And sin [against] your soul. 11 For the stone will cry out from

the wall, And the beam from the timbers will answer it. 12

"Woe to him who builds a town with bloodshed, Who

establishes a city by iniquity! 13 Behold, [is it] not of the LORD of hosts That the peoples labor to feed the fire, And nations weary themselves in vain? 14 For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea. 15 "Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbor, Pressing [him to] your bottle, Even to make [him] drunk, That you may look on his nakedness! 16 You are filled with shame instead of glory. You also--drink! And be exposed as uncircumcised! The cup of the LORD's right hand [will be] turned against you, And utter shame will be on your glory. 17 For the violence [done to] Lebanon will cover you, And the plunder of beasts [which] made them afraid, Because of men's blood And the violence of the land [and] the city, And of all who dwell in it. 18 "What profit is the image, that its maker should carve it, The molded image, a teacher of lies, That the maker of its mold should trust in it, To make mute idols? 19

**Woe to him who says to wood, 'Awake!' To silent stone, 'Arise! It shall teach!' Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, Yet in it there is no breath at all. 20 "But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him."**

Two weeks ago, we were introduced to Habakkuk, a prophet, in the land of Judah, that takes his concern to the Lord.

His concern was the spiritual condition of his country.

There was wickedness everywhere he turned.

And the concern that he brought forth to the Lord was,

**"Why haven't You done anything about what is going on?"**

**Why is it do you allow these things to continue to happen?**

**Do you not care about your people anymore?**

And I made the point that there are times when we come to the Lord with the same questions that Habakkuk makes in response to the circumstances around us.

It doesn't necessarily have to be the wickedness or injustice in the world that will drive us to come to the Lord with our questions or doubts, it can also be circumstances that we feel God hasn't addressed within our own family as well.

It could be a marriage that is falling apart

It could be that loved one that you've been praying for and you see their condition get worse and worse.

It could be anyone of us who find ourselves struggling to provide for our family.

It could be a loved one that keeps on falling into addiction -

Why???

And as we saw in the video last week, God **is** working in the midst of our lives right now – even when we don't see things changing.

And that is what we saw in God's response to Habakkuk. He didn't answer the "why", God simply answered with – **I am** doing something and He proceeds to tell Habakkuk how He is going to use Babylon to judge Judah.

A nation more wicked than Judah – **this is not the answer Habakkuk was expecting.**

So, Habakkuk spends the rest of chapter one venting to God about the wickedness of Babylon.

So here in chapter two, Habakkuk finishes venting in verse one.

**[Hab 2:1 NKJV] 1 I will stand my watch And set myself on the rampart, And watch to see what He will say to me, And what I will answer **when I am corrected.****

Habakkuk saw himself as a watchman on the walls of Jerusalem, waiting for a message from God that he could share with the people of Judah.

That was the role of a prophet.

Remember, back in those days, cities had walls around them – and it was the responsibility of the watchman to warn the city if bad guys were approaching. If he didn't do his job, and people lost their lives, their hands would be stained with the blood of those who died.

**There is a spiritual lesson for us all here as well.**

Remember, as believers, it is not a reach that we are in the position of a watchman as well. We know that danger is approaching and it is our responsibility to warn people – so that they can flee from the wrath/judgment that is approaching.

If we don't share the gospel with lost sinners, as spiritual watchmen, their blood may be in our hands as well.

Look at what Paul tells the church elders in the book of Acts 20,

**[Act 20:26-27 NKJV] 26 "Therefore I testify to you this day that I [am] innocent of the blood of all [men]. 27 "For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.**

And as a watchman, Habakkuk waited patiently for the Lord to respond.

That should be our response – waiting for the Lord to answer us.

Habakkuk came to God with his doubts – his worries - and God graciously responded with giving Habakkuk a vision of what was going to happen. Not only for him, but others like him that lived in Judah and for us as well.

So, God gives Habakkuk this vision in verse two and three – and he wants Habakkuk to write down the vision so that others can be able to read about it later on.



Because the vision that God gave to Habakkuk, was not going to happen immediately.

It was for a future time –

The message was intended for the people of Judah about the upcoming judgment upon them.

Because there were going to be scoffers who would say that because judgment had not happened – it was never going to come.

However, this same message that we see in verses 2-4 point to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

How???

Turn with me to the book of Hebrews.

**[Heb 10:37-38 NKJV] 37 "For yet a little while, [And] He who is coming will come and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live**

**by faith; But if [anyone] draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."**

Now, the author of the book of Hebrews, inspired by the Holy Spirit – quotes Habakkuk 2:3-4. **However, the word "it" is substituted for the word "He"**

So, in Habakkuk – it refers to the coming judgment and in the book of Hebrews, it refers to His second coming.

Let' look at verse 4 again,

**[Hab 2:4 NKJV] 4 "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith.**

This verse is quoted three times in the New Testament

We saw it earlier in Hebrews 10:38

We also find it quoted in Romans 1:17

And in Galatians 3:11

This verse is one of the cornerstones of the Christian faith as it points to our justification in the eyes of God is based on His grace. Not on works.

It was after reading Romans 1:17 that includes the quote from Habakkuk – that Martin Luther realized that we were not justified by our works and it led to the Reformation.

And even before Habakkuk wrote the vision that God gave him, we saw this is action in the life of Abraham.

**[Gen 15:4-6 NKJV] 4 And behold, the word of the LORD [came] to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." 5 Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." 6 And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.**

Church, all we can do is put our saving faith in Jesus Christ and His work on the cross, because that is the only way to be saved.

The opposite of depending on God's grace is to think that we can do it all on our own.

And that is what we have here starting in verse 5, of course these words are directed at Babylon – however, we can see the same attributes of the world today.

**[Hab 2:5 NKJV] 5 "Indeed, because he transgresses by wine, [He is] a proud man, And he does not stay at home. Because he enlarges his desire as hell, And he [is] like death, and cannot be satisfied, He gathers to himself all nations And heaps up for himself all peoples.**

Here we see some of the attributes of Babylon

Proud, does not stay home, cannot be satisfied – these all point to their constant pursuit of trying to satisfy their flesh.

And they did this by conquering nation after nation and boasting about their military prowess – remember, in chapter one Habakkuk mentions that they worshipped their own military might – that was their god.

So starting in verse 6, God pronounces 5 woes against Babylon.

In verse 6-9

The first woe, Woe to him who increases what is not his?

**The first woe is directed at their greed and selfish ambitions.**

As they would go in to the nations they conquered, they would take everything they had and those that were not killed – they were taken captives as slave labor.

They stopped at nothing to acquire wealth and expand their kingdom.

The Babylonians would be guilty of taking what did not belong to them.

One day all the people that Babylon had plundered will turn and plunder them.

One day, the Medes and the Persians would go into Babylon and do exactly what they did to many nations.

Eventually, we will reap what we sow.

The second woe (vs 9-11)

The second woe is directed at their covetousness,

Even though they gathered possessions that were not theirs and became materially wealthy, they became spiritually bankrupt.

At what cost???

**[Mar 8:36 NKJV] 36 "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?**

## The third woe (vs 12-14)

The third woe is directed at their exploitation of people.

Babylon was built on bloodshed, the blood of innocent victims, It was built by prisoners of war and slave labor.

Babylon was proud of what they had built – but not God.

It was not going to last and that is why we have to go to museums to see any remnants of the great city of Babylon.

## The fourth woe (vs 15-17)

The fourth woe is directed at their influence or manipulation toward other nations.

Babylon manipulated their enemies and got people “drunk” on their promises to them.

And once they were drunk, the people were left exposed.

And at the end of verse 16, we see that in the end, Babylon is the one that is going to be exposed during their judgment.

The fifth woe (vs 18-19)

The fifth woe is directed toward their idolatry

Not only is idolatry a flagrant violation of the second commandment.

Idol worship is also foolish and useless.

**[Isa 44:9-18 NKJV] 9 Those who make an image, all of them [are] useless, And their precious things shall not profit; They [are] their own witnesses; They neither see nor know, that they may be ashamed. 10 Who would form a god or mold an image [That] profits him nothing? 11 Surely all his companions would be ashamed; And the workmen, they [are] mere men. Let them all be gathered together, Let them stand up; Yet they shall fear, They shall be ashamed together. 12 The blacksmith with the**



tongs works one in the coals, Fashions it with hammers, And works it with the strength of his arms. Even so, he is hungry, and his strength fails; He drinks no water and is faint. 13 The craftsman stretches out [his] rule, He marks one out with chalk; He fashions it with a plane, He marks it out with the compass, And makes it like the figure of a man, According to the beauty of a man, that it may remain in the house. 14 He cuts down cedars for himself, And takes the cypress and the oak; He secures [it] for himself among the trees of the forest. He plants a pine, and the rain nourishes [it]. 15 Then it shall be for a man to burn, For he will take some of it and warm himself; Yes, he kindles [it] and bakes bread; Indeed he makes a god and worships [it]; He makes it a carved image, and falls down to it. 16 He burns half of it in the fire; With this half he eats meat; He roasts a roast, and is satisfied. He even warms [himself] and says, "Ah! I am warm, I have seen the fire." 17

**And the rest of it he makes into a god, His carved image. He falls down before it and worships [it], Prays to it and says, "Deliver me, for you [are] my god!" 18 They do not know nor understand; For He has shut their eyes, so that they cannot see, [And] their hearts, so that they cannot understand.**

Always remember that idol worship is anything that we delight in other than the one true Living God.

It could be self, it could someone famous, it could be ones children or any material possession.

The last verse of the vision is recorded in verse 20

**[Hab 2:20 NKJV] 20 "But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him."**

The last verse is an assurance to Habakkuk and to those that read the vision, that God is still in control.

Despite everything that God said about Babylon – He is still on the throne. And as faithful servants, we must learn to stand and listen for His command

### Psalm 46:10 Be still and know that I am God

Hearing the assurances of God transformed Habakkuk from a worrier to a worshipper.

He is no longer the same man that we saw at the beginning of the book.

His circumstances did not change – they were still the same.

However, he changed – now, he was walking by faith instead of by sight and he was living by promises and not explanations.

So chapter three is him worshipping the Lord.

Chapter three is a psalm and as we see the word “selah” that is a reference to a break in the song.

[Hab 3:1-19 NKJV] 1 A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, on Shigionoth. 2 O LORD, I have heard Your speech [and] was afraid; O LORD, **revive** Your work in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make [it] known; In wrath remember mercy.

Habakkuk has now had a change in heart.

Now, he is praying for God's will instead of questioning God's will.

He wants God's work to succeed among the people of Judah. He is praying for revival.

The word revive in verse two, is the same Hebrew word that is used back in the book of Genesis to describe Jacob when he was told that Joseph was alive and had sent the moving trucks to move them to Egypt.

**3 God came from Teman, The Holy One from Mount Paran.**

**Selah His glory covered the heavens, And the earth was full of**

**His praise. 4 [His] brightness was like the light; He had rays**

**[flashing] from His hand, And there His power [was] hidden. 5**

**Before Him went pestilence, And fever followed at His feet. 6**

**He stood and measured the earth; He looked and startled the**

**nations. And the everlasting mountains were scattered, The**

**perpetual hills bowed. His ways [are] everlasting. 7 I saw the**

**tents of Cushan in affliction; The curtains of the land of Midian**

**trembled. 8 O LORD, were [You] displeased with the rivers,**

**[Was] Your anger against the rivers, [Was] Your wrath against**

**the sea, That You rode on Your horses, Your chariots of**

**salvation? 9 Your bow was made quite ready; Oaths were**

**sworn over [Your] arrows. Selah You divided the earth with**

**rivers. 10 The mountains saw You [and] trembled; The**

**overflowing of the water passed by. The deep uttered its voice,**

**[And] lifted its hands on high. 11 The sun and moon stood still in their habitation; At the light of Your arrows they went, At the shining of Your glittering spear. 12 You marched through the land in indignation; You trampled the nations in anger. 13 You went forth for the salvation of Your people, For salvation with Your Anointed. You struck the head from the house of the wicked, By laying bare from foundation to neck. Selah 14 You thrust through with his own arrows The head of his villages. They came out like a whirlwind to scatter me; Their rejoicing was like feasting on the poor in secret. 15 You walked through the sea with Your horses, Through the heap of great waters.**

Much of what we read from verses 3-15 are in reference to how God had delivered the children of Israel in the past.

There are references from the deliverance of Egypt and how God delivered them through the wilderness and some of the famous

battles that we find in the book of Joshua – like when God holds the sun still.

**16 When I heard, my body trembled; My lips quivered at [the] voice; Rottenness entered my bones; And I trembled in myself, That I might rest in the day of trouble. When he comes up to the people, He will invade them with his troops. 17 Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls-- 18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. 19 The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's [feet], And He will make me walk on my high hills. To the Chief Musician. With my stringed instruments.**

Habakkuk ends his worship with a proclamation of faith.

He saw a nation heading for destruction, he saw a land that would be ruined for generations to come, he city and his temple destroyed – yet his proclamation is one where he tells God that he will trust Him no matter what happens.

There is no way that Habakkuk could rejoice in his circumstances. That is not what God expects of us.

However, Habakkuk could still rejoice in his God.

**[1Thess 5:16-18 NKJV] 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**

Habakkuk teaches us to face our doubts and questions honestly, we are to take them humbly to the Lord, wait for His word to teach us and then worship Him no matter how we feel or what we see.

Always remember that God doesn't always change the circumstances, but, He can change us to meet the circumstances.



And that church, is what it means to live by faith.

Amen...

Let's pray...

