

# Habakkuk 2

## Habakkuk 2.1-3

**V1 – What did Habakkuk do when he finished his reply to God?** Went to a place by himself (maybe on the wall of the city) and waited for an answer from God

- What does this tell us about Habakkuk?** Always searching for the truth (he had a good heart)
- Did Habakkuk believe that God would reply to him?** Yes

**V2 – What did God tell Habakkuk to do first?** Write down the answer that he would shortly receive

- Where was it to be written?** On tablets (durable)
- What style was it to be written in?** Simple (a runner could read it and keep running)

**V3 – When would these things take place?** Not in the near future

- If the book of *Habakkuk* was written in c. 606 B.C. , then it was going to be 20 years away (586 B.C.)
- In other words, God was planning 20 years in advance – so Habakkuk had to be patient
- Would the attack of the Babylonians fail?** No – nobody could stop them
- It would tarry, but there was no doubt that it would take place

## Habakkuk 2.4-8

**V4 – Who is the proud one?** The Babylonians (proud of their military might)

- What did God say about the spiritual condition of the Babylonians?** They were very immoral
- Who will be the ones that God will take care of?** The righteous – they will live by their faith
- In other words, God will watch over them, based on their faith
- Habakkuk 2.4c* is used in: *Romans 1.17, Galatians 3.11, Hebrews 10.38-39*
- Why is this such an important verse in the New Testament?** Because the Jews of the First Century were trying to live by their works (keeping the Old Testament, etc.)
- The significance in Habakkuk's day: Righteousness is not going to be associated with just the temple in Jerusalem (which was going to be destroyed) – they would go into captivity, but they would live by their faith

**V5 – What ultimately defeats haughty and proud people?** They take things too far

- Like drinking wine – it takes over a person, and the person “bites off more than he can chew”
- The message is that the Babylonians would keep on trying to expand until they would be defeated
- They wouldn't know where to stop

**V6 – What would the people conquered by the Babylonians eventually do?** Join together against them

- What empire eventually defeated the Babylonians?** The Medo-Persian Empire (remember *Daniel 5*)

**V7 – How would the ancient people look at the Babylonians?** With mockery and insinuation

- What was the worst thing that the Babylonians would do?** Take what was not theirs – things that belonged to other people

**V 8 –How would people describe the savagery of the Babylonians?** Looters (we hate looters, don't we?)

-**What would happen to the “looters”?** They would loot Babylon

-**What was the ultimate charge against the Babylonians?** Bloodshed and violence to the land and towns and people

## **Habakkuk 2.9-14**

**V 9** –The beginning of the list of four woes that God pronounced against the Babylonians (Chaldeans)

-**What is the first woe?** The love of money

-**How did that affect the Babylonians?** They stole the houses of other people and nations

-**Why had they stolen so many houses and properties of other people and nations?** To try to insure that they would not have to suffer (a nest on high) and that they would be delivered from the hand of calamity

**V 10** – **How were the Babylonians sinning against themselves?** Sin carries its own consequences

-**How do Americans sin against themselves today?** Gambling, alcohol, fornication, etc.

-Remember *Galatians 6.7-8* – we reap what we sow

**V 11** – The very walls of the house will cry out against the Babylonians

**V 12** – **What is the second woe?** Building a city (or nation) on bloodshed (Remember *Proverbs 6.16-19* – hands that shed innocent blood)

-So the Babylonians were guilty of building their nation on bloodshed

**V 13** –**What will happen to the wealth of the Babylonians?** It will go up in smoke (fire)

-**What have they been working for?** Nothing

**V 14** – **Who will ultimately win the battle with evil people?** The Lord – the knowledge of God will cover the earth (prophecy of Isaiah)

## **Habakkuk 2.15-17**

**V 15** – **What is the third woe?** Getting drunk (and encouraging others to get drunk)

-**What does drunkenness sometimes result in?** People getting naked

-**Example in Bible of that?** Noah after the flood

**V 16** – The Babylonians would be disgraced by their own drunkenness

**V 17** – **Was Israel the only country in the Middle East that the Babylonians had terrorized?** No - Lebanon

**Notice:** the devastation of its beasts (the killing of the animals there – without cause)

**Notice also:** the violence done to the land (as well as the towns and their people)

-Conclusion: God was condemning the Babylonians because of their violence

## **Habakkuk 2.18-20**

**V 18** – What is the fourth woe? Idol worship

- What is so stupid about idol worship?** The person made the idol himself
- In our neighborhood, there is a statue of Mary inside an upturned bathtub
- What is so stupid about idols?** They cannot talk (but God is talking to Habakkuk at this point)

**V 19** –What did people try to do to their idols? Get them to talk (remember Elijah on Mt. Carmel)

- How did the Babylonians try to enhance their idolatry?** By covering their idols with gold and silver
- So does God agree with Habakkuk that the Babylonians are more wicked than the Israelites?** Yes – he agrees - Habakkuk is right about that

**V 20** –But what is God’s final answer to the question of Habakkuk in *Habakkuk 1.2*?

**Summarize verse 20:** Habakkuk, keep quiet - this is my decision, and your puny little mind cannot comprehend it

**Or:** God does not have to explain to us what he is working out in the world (we wouldn’t believe it anyway)

- So the Babylonians would fall (539 B.C. to the Medes and Persians), but God will use the Babylonians as his tool to correct the Jews
- Did the correction of the Jews work?** Yes – they never again got involved with idolatry
- in fact, they were fanatics on the subject of idolatry
- When Pilate marched into Jerusalem with his legions of soldiers, they had the pole (standard) in the front of the column with the eagle on top
- The Jews went crazy with anger – they considered that idolatry – so Pilate never had it easy in Palestine, because of the Roman eagle
- But we never again read of the Jews getting involved with idolatry in the rest of the Old Testament or in the New Testament

**Thought question:** If the Babylonians were going to be God’s instrument in world affairs, why didn’t Habakkuk join the Babylonian army?

- Remember in *Matthew 24*** – God was using the Roman army to punish Jerusalem for the death of Christ
- What were the Christians told to do during the fighting?** When a break came in the fighting, they were to flee to the mountains (and be spared from the battle)
- In other words, God will use the evil people of the world to carry out his will – He has not asked for our help, and He does not want us to be involved
- What is the kind of fighting that God wants us involved in? Read 2 Corinthians 10.3-6 and Ephesians 6.10-17**