



The Five Woes

Habakkuk 2:1-15; 20

- Overview of the Book of Habakkuk. Why does wickedness prosper? Why does God act in the way that He does concerning this wickedness?
- Background: By this time, Israel had divided into two kingdoms. 10 tribes in the north. Two tribes in the south – Judah and Benjamin. Habakkuk talking specifically about Judah here.
- Judah wasn't perfect but not as disobedient as the Northern Kingdom.
- Chapter 1 Habakkuk talks to God. Why is this injustice allowed to happen?
- God's answer is that the Chaldeans (who are way worse) will overtake the Judah – the Babylonian captivity.
- There is an exchange that takes place between God and Habakkuk. Habakkuk said that he will stand watch and wait on the Lord.
 - o That is the focus of our short study through this book.

- We may not understand all that God is doing, but we simply wait on Him.
- Realizing there are attacks that come against the people of God – Habakkuk takes a posture that points to their dependence on the Lord. It also shows the need for a change in perspective.
- In Chapter 2 – God addresses the sins of the Chaldeans. We know he is speaking of the Chaldeans because he addresses uncircumcision and the false idols they worship.
- The point of this passage is simply this – God has a plan. We may not understand it, but He utilizes any person and any circumstance that He chooses.
 - The sinful will pay for the consequences of sin
 - The just will live by faith.

Main Point: Sin has direct consequences, and we should strive for faithfulness.

- Be killing sin or sin will be killing you. John Owen.

- Paul quoted Habakkuk 2:4 in writing his epistle to the church in Rome. It was hundreds of years later that Martin Luther read these words “The just shall live by faith” and came to the spiritual epiphany that ultimately led to the Reformation.
- It means that we are saved by faith, not works. But it also means since we are justified – we should reject sin and seek to live faithfully.

I. Greed

- a. Greed is the opposite of contentment. It is an insatiable appetite for more and more. It is constantly seeking after the things of this world and never being satisfied.
- b. Man has been motivated by greed since the fall. The Babylonians chased after new riches and treasures. In order to get this, of course, they would conquer other nations.

c. That doesn't happen as much today on a geo-political scale, but greed still exists in the heart of individuals and groups of individuals.

d. 1 Timothy 6:10 – The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.

i. Greed is at the heart of a lot of sin because we think if we have more resources, we can do more things and buy more things. And if we can do more things and buy more things then we will be happier.

e. It starts with a very real sense of dissatisfaction with what is right in front of you. Rather than being content with where the Lord has planted you and what the Lord has provided for you – you see other people living their best lives and you want whatever they have.

f. That may provide a temporary sense of happiness, but it doesn't bring joy.

g. We can show greed with money. Also with:

i. Time, resources, talents or worldly pleasures.

II. Selfish ambition

a. Jude gives dire warnings against false teachers. Christians are to contend for the faith once and for all delivered to the saints.

b. One of the descriptions of a false teacher is that they are driven by selfish ambition.

c. God is speaking of the Babylonians here. Those outside of the people of God. What is concerning today is that this same dire warning could be said of many who claim to be apart of the people of God, teachers even.

d. Age of the mega church – technology has made it more possible. Multiple campuses, media, social following has made false teachers more accessible. And easier to build a following around a person.

e. It's not all about me. It's all about Christ.

III. Injustice against others

a. As a kid – hung out at the corner next to the old kindergarten in Rockmart. Yelling at cars going by and throwing smoke bombs.

- b. Someone told my mom on us. When I saw her reaction – I stopped in my tracks.
- c. Oh!
- d. That's the Hebrew term here for woe. Hoy.
- e. God allows times in our life where we have to confront our sin.

IV. Spreading sinfulness

- a. Sin spreads like gangrene.
- b. Before you know it you are sucked into sins destructive cycle.
- c. Gossip, lying, selfishness, discontentment, grumbling, all spread like wildfire.
- d. This is not the way of the righteous.
- e. There are plenty of warnings here, even for the people of God. We can be caught and trapped into this downward spiral as well.
- f. Ryan Kearns – Repentance is not a punishment, it's a gift.
- g. It's what allows us to escape the destructive habits of sin.

V. Idolatry

- a. What are the idols of our day?