

# The Five Woes

## Habakkuk Chapter 2:5-20

In this chapter we will find the sins that God hates.

### I. The Lord answers Habakkuk's bewilderment

The Lord is going to build on the principles of his righteous government that He just revealed in verse 4. He is going to apply them to the unrighteous Babylonians.

### II. The First of Five Woes

Verse 6: The Woe to the Plunderer.  
Verse 7: He will be Despoiled  
Verse 8: Grounded in spoiling of the nations.

### III. The Second of Five Woes

Verse 9: The Woe to the Plotter.  
Verse 11: They will be Denounced.  
Verse 10: Grounded in their scheming against the people.

### IV. The Third of Five Woes

Verse 12: The Woe to the Pillager.  
Verse 13: They will be Destroyed.  
Verse 14: Grounded in surety of the knowledge of God

### V. The Fourth of Five Woes

Verse 15: The Woe to the Perverter.  
Verse 16: They will be Disgraced.  
Verse 17: Grounded in the Stripping of man/nature

### VI. The Fifth of Five Woes

Verse 19a: The Woe to the Polytheist.  
Verse 19b: He will be Deserted.  
Verse 18,20: Grounded in the Supremacy of God

### VII. God is still on the Throne

Praise God for verse 20. We have no need to complain of doubt, for He is ruling over all the affairs of men.

5. Yea also, because he transgresseth by wine, he is a proud man, neither keepeth at home, who enlargeth his desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people:

6. Shall not all these take up a **parable** against him, and a taunting proverb against him, and say, Woe to him that increaseth that which is not his! how long? and to him that ladeth himself with thick clay!

7. Shall they not rise up suddenly that shall bite thee, and awake that shall vex thee, and thou shalt be for booties unto them?

8. Because thou hast spoiled many nations, all the remnant of the people shall spoil thee; because of men's blood, and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein.

9. Woe to him that **coveteth** an evil covetousness to his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of evil!

10. Thou hast consulted shame to thy house by cutting off many people, and hast sinned against thy soul.

11. For the stone shall cry out of the wall, and the beam out of the timber shall answer it.

12. Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, and stablisheth a city by iniquity!

13. Behold, is it not of the LORD of hosts that the people shall labour in the very fire, and the people shall weary themselves for very vanity?

14. For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

15. Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!

16. Thou art filled with shame for glory: drink thou also, and let thy foreskin be uncovered: the cup of the LORD'S right hand shall be turned unto thee, and shameful spewing shall be on thy glory.

17. For the violence of Lebanon shall cover thee, and the spoil of beasts, which made them afraid, because of men's blood, and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein.

18. What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols?

19. Woe unto him that saith to the wood, Awake; to the dumb stone, Arise, it shall teach! Behold, it is laid over with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in the midst of it.

20. But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth **keep silence** before him.

The key verse for this section is found in verse 14. "The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God's glory." The earth in Habakkuk was certainly not filled with the knowledge of God's glory nor is the world of our day.

**Parable:** The parable against the Babylonians consist of five woes.

In verses 6-8 we find the reason behind the woe. The Babylonians had little regard for the nations the conquered. Taking at will what they wanted. God warned of a sudden destruction coming upon them, and the retribution would be swift.

**Coveteth:** to gain greedily.

In verses 9-11 the Babylonians had deluded themselves into thinking that they were secure because of their great fortifications. "That he may set his nest on high", built as a result of its plunder and greed. The walls had been their false sense of security. The term used elsewhere in scripture denotes a sinful pride or self-confidence and security.

"For the stone shall cry out of the wall," this is a proverbial example denoting the depth of their cruelty against mankind. Even non-living things shall raise up to condemn the Babylonians.

In verse 12 we find the reason for the third woe. God hates those who build their empire upon bloodshed.

Vs. 13 tells us that they expend their cruelty so that they would have fire for their food, and that it would be their downfall.

The surety of the downfall is that the knowledge of the Lord shall fill the earth.

God pulls back the curtain to let us know there is a day coming that the whole world will be filled with the glory of the knowledge of God. This is an announcement of the millennial kingdom

Verses 15-17 the woe is given to their debauchery of others, as well as their wholesale devastation. They are charged with leading subject nations into debauchery and adding to their vices in order to debase and humiliate them. God promises judgment on those who use alcohol to lead others into immorality.

Verses 18-20 introduces a question concerning the trusting in pagan gods of wood and stone. The Babylonians trusted in their man made idols. Giving them credit for their victories.

But their idols have no power to save them from the destruction that is to come.

**Keep silence:** Hush be silent. Don't just do something, stand there. Wait for God. God may seem slow, BUT He is never late.

<sup>1</sup> The Wycliffe Exegetical Commentary Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Richard D Patterson. Moody Bible Institute pg. 184