

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for November 22, 2015

Is God Fair?
Habakkuk 1:12-2:20

I. Habakkuk's second complaint (1:12-2:1)

A. The inconsistency (1:12-13)

1. God's eternity (1:12a)
2. God's appointment of Babylon (1:12b)
3. God cannot approve evil (1:13a)
4. Habakkuk's complaining questions (1:13b)
 - Why do you look favorably on the treacherous?
 - Why do you remain silent as evil overwhelms righteousness?

B. The illustration (1:14-17)

1. Why are all men like fish of the sea? (1:14)
2. Chaldeans gladly bring them up with a net (1:15)
3. Chaldeans worship their net because net provides plenty and luxury (1:16)
 - Remember Habakkuk 1:11,
"They whose strength is their god."
 - Romans 1:25
"For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and
worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who
is blessed forever. Amen."
4. Will this Babylonian "fishing" (aka madness) continue? (1:17)

C. The interval (2:1)

- Similar watchmen prophets (Isa 21:8, 11; Jer 6:17; Eze 3:17; 33:2-3)
 - Watchmen: Keep guard and watch for any invader or intrusion
 - Habakkuk waits and watches for the response of the Lord
 - Psalm 130:5-6
- I wait for the LORD, my soul does wait,
And in His word do I hope.
My soul waits for the Lord
More than the watchmen for the morning;
Indeed, more than the watchmen for the morning.

II. The Lord's response (2:2-20)

A. The Lord addresses the prophet (2:2-4)

1. Lord's command to write the vision (2:2)
 - Tablets in the marketplace for public notices
2. Lord's command to wait for the vision (2:3)
 - Although it was not yet, it would eventually take place
 - Babylon would eventually suffer an end to his treachery
3. The proud versus the faithful (2:4)
 - God acknowledges the pride of the Babylonians
 - But, they have a vital problem; they are not right with God
 - Huge Question: How can man be right before God???
 - Genesis 15:6
Then he believed in the LORD;
and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.
 - 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.
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."
 - Hebrews 10:38
BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH;
AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.

B. The Lord addresses the Babylonians (2:5-20)

- Relentless proud men (2:5)
 - Babylonians known for drunkenness (Daniel 5)
 - Transition to woes on Babylon (2:6-20)
 - “woe” - Funeral lament, cry for attention or announcement of doom
1. Woe to the Babylonian looting (2:6-8)
 - They looted and became large based on other's riches; thus, when they fall, they will be plundered out of revenge
 2. Woe to the Babylonian greedy (2:9-11)
 - Unjust gain led to house renovations in order to ensure security

- Their home is the display, witness or monument of their own greed and pride
- Stone and framework of house are crying out to God

3. Woe to the Babylonian violence (2:12-14)

- Babylon was building name for themselves through excessive violence (v. 12)
- They had failed to recognize God's work in all their success (v. 13)
- “The Lord of hosts” = Lord of armies not Babylon's armies!
- The purpose of God in creating the earth at all was that it might reflect His glory (Numbers 14:21; Isaiah 11:9).

4. Woe to the Babylonian shame (2:15-17)

- Babylon took political advantage of neighbor nations like Lebanon
- Jeremiah 25:15-17a
For thus the LORD, the God of Israel, says to me,
“Take this cup of the wine of wrath from My hand and cause all the nations to whom I send you to drink it. They will drink and stagger and go mad because of the sword that I will send among them.” Then I took the cup from the LORD'S hand and made all the nations to whom the LORD sent me drink it:...
- Babylon would receive cup of the Lord's wrath in v. 26
- They disgraced others and now they will be disgraced

5. Woe to the Babylonian idolatry (2:18-20)

- Idols are not profitable v. 18a
- Idols are manmade v. 18b
- Idols are mute and cannot teach v. 19a
- Idols are dead, no breath v. 19b
- Jeremiah 2:27-28
Who say to a tree, ‘You are my father,’
And to a stone, ‘You gave me birth.’
For they have turned their back to Me,
And not their face;
But in the time of their trouble they will say,
‘Arise and save us.’
But where are your gods

Which you made for yourself?
Let them arise, if they can save you
In the time of your trouble;
For according to the number of your cities Are your gods,
O Judah.

-Psalm 115:4-8

Their idols are silver and gold,
The work of man's hands.
They have mouths, but they cannot speak;
They have eyes, but they cannot see;
They have ears, but they cannot hear;
They have noses, but they cannot smell;
They have hands, but they cannot feel;
They have feet, but they cannot walk;
They cannot make a sound with their throat.
Those who make them will
become like them,
Everyone who trusts in them.

-Psalm 11:4

The LORD is in His holy temple; the LORD'S throne
is in heaven;

-Zechariah 2:13

“Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD; for He is
aroused from His holy habitation.”