

HABAKKUK

LESSON # 6

2:5-20

Your memory verse is Habakkuk 2:14

As we continue our study of Habakkuk, let us remember that the stories of the Old Testament were written for our instruction. God wants to use Israel's example to make us take heed and not fall in the same ways they did (1 Corinthians 10:11). This is not a history lesson; it is a sermon! Read through the entire book of Habakkuk before beginning this lesson, and let his words preach to you. ◻

1. Chapter 1 closed with Habakkuk asking how God could use a people as evil as the Chaldeans to punish His chosen nation of Judah. How did God begin to answer these questions in 2:1-4?
2. Vs. 4 tells us something important about *the proud one*. In the immediate context, to whom does "the proud" refer? In what ways were these people proud? Hint: See vs. 5 (and the rest of the chapter, for that matter).
3. Who really deserved credit for the Chaldeans' prosperity and victory? See 1:5-6; Isaiah 13:1-5.

8. Babylon had not even invaded Judah at this point, yet the Lord is already publicly announcing that they would be severely punished for what they were about to do to God's people. How would knowing this be helpful to the faithful remnant in Judah? How would it help them to live by faith in the coming day, and then years?

9. Like Israel we, too have assurances about how things will turn out in the end. Read each of the promises below, and write down how each truth, when understood and believed, can change the way we live.

Romans 12:19

2 Thessalonians 1:5-10

Revelation 7:14-17

Revelation 18:2,10

10. Vs. 3 tells us that this vision of Babylon's doom is for "*the appointed time,*" and then vs. 5 says that "*wine betrays the haughty man, So that he does not stay at home.*" This seems like an unrelated proverb—but when we look ahead to the eventual fulfillment of this prophecy, we see that it's actually very relevant! How would wine betray the Chaldeans *at the appointed time*? See Daniel 5. What happened to their kingdom while they were drinking?

11. Vs. 6 opens with a taunt-song against the Chaldeans, which consists of a series of five woes pronounced upon them for five specific vices. The first woe is found in vss. 6-8. As the Babylonians went about their campaign of conquest, how did they specifically wrong their conquered subjects? What motivated these actions? What suitable judgment will come upon them in return?

12. The Chaldeans' greed drove them to wrong the nations they conquered, cheating their already-vanquished foes in order to line their own pockets. What warnings does God give us about this very same heart motivation? See Colossians 3:5-7; 1 Timothy 6:7-12, 17-19; 1 John 2:15-17.

13. What tactics did the Chaldeans use in building their "house" and with what end goal in mind, according to vss. 9-11? What "woe" will they experience as a result?

14. Vs 12 describes the Chaldeans' practice of using their captives as a slave-labor force to build up the capital of Babylon (see Jeremiah 22:13-14). What will the Lord of hosts bring upon all these great works, according to vs. 13? For clarification, see Jeremiah 51:58.
15. The Lord follows up His pronouncement of woe upon Babylon with a statement of His ultimate goal for the world He created in vs. 14. What is it? Why must He judge Babylon, and all other enemies, in order to attain this goal (Isaiah 42:8)?
16. Vss. 15-17 highlight the Chaldeans' love of wine—not only for the purpose of their own drunken revelry, but also for its exploitative effect on their enemies. How will God reward their love of drink?
17. The final woe is leveled against the Babylonians' idolatry (vss. 18-20). How does God describe idols, and in contrast, how does He describe Himself?

18. When God says He is in His holy temple, what is He emphasizing about Himself?
See Psalm 11:4; 29:9-10; Isaiah 6:1-4; 66:1.

19. After reading all of chapter 2, how would you sum up God's response to Habakkuk's question in 1:12-17? What biblical principle does this illustrate? See Proverbs 22:8; Ecclesiastes 8:8; Galatians 6:7-8.

20. Are there situations or circumstances where the Spirit of God is asking you to "HUSH" as an expression of true worship?

21. We who think we can continue in sin, any sin, without consequences, we are gravely mistaken; just like the Babylonians, so we too will one day reap what we have sown. As we spend our days, so we spend our lives: we are always sowing something. Consider your own activities and habits. Make a list on the next page of the specific ways you are sowing to the Spirit in your daily life. Then, make a list of the specific ways you are sowing to the flesh. Now, prayerfully look at your two lists. What is the Lord prompting you to do in response to this lesson?

Sowing to the Spirit

Sowing to the flesh

*“Be killing sin or it will be killing you.”
~John Owen*