

2 Closing Questions

1. Do we need to heed God's promise of woe?

If you are living in unconfessed, unrepentant sin this morning then you need to heed God's promise of woe. He is a loving Father who knows and wants what is best for you. He has made a way for you to not bear the penalty of sin anymore. God has also made a way for you to increasingly, progressively be free from the power of sin in your life.

Do not leave here this morning without heeding God's promise of woe to the Chaldeans and all those who reject God. He has offered forgiveness and reconciliation to Himself through Jesus. He has invited you into a kingdom that will never be destroyed, to experience that reality one day of the knowledge of His glory covering the earth.

2. Do we need to refocus our response?

How we respond to people around us and situations happening in our world says a lot about who we are trusting. Do we really trust the Lord who is ruling from His holy temple? Do our actions and words match our confession of such trust?

God is God. I am not. He is in His holy temple. He is not indifferent. He is actively working in this world, even where I can't see it. Regardless of what I think or what I see, I can trust Him. I choose today to trust Him.

"Let all the earth keep silence before Him."

Trusting God: A Study in Habakkuk

God's Promises Are Sure

Habakkuk 2:6-20

Since God is all-powerful, why?

Kids can ask hard questions. "If God is all-powerful can He move an immovable rock?" Have you ever heard this one? It's actually not that hard. Of course, He can! If God wants to, He can move any immovable rock. He is God!

At the heart of Habakkuk lies another question that kids and even adults might ask: Since God is all-powerful, why doesn't He just snap His fingers and save everyone? Why doesn't God cut sinful humans out of the equation and just do everything on His own?

As we have studied in Habakkuk and can read throughout the Bible, God chooses in His wisdom and knowledge to use people: imperfect nations like the Chaldeans or Judah, even people like you and me. From page one of the Bible, God has chosen to work through humanity, His image-bearers, His representatives, to bring about His will on the earth. We will see this clearly in today's passage.

Last week we started to look at God's second answer to Habakkuk. Today we'll look at the rest of it. God gives five woes to the Chaldeans and any evil nation who exalts themselves and opposes God. I want to encourage us today to read these five woes as God's promises. There is no maybe. God will have His way in the nations. His purpose, His victory over evil is certain. **As God's people who are faced with evil powers in our day, we must live focused on the assurance of God's promises.** What promises? Well, there are many throughout Scripture, but in our passage today Habakkuk gives us 5.

The 5 Promises of God

1. God promises an _____ (6-8).

The Chaldeans would rob the conquered lands of their wealth. They would take by force whatever they wanted. In the same way that

Habakkuk questioned God about Judah in 1:2, the question gets asked here in verse 6 again, for how long will they do this?

It seems forever, but God declares, "Not so!" The very nations that were oppressed and plundered will rise up as judgment against their evil oppressor. When it seems, there will be no end to the tyranny of the evil Chaldeans, the remnant of the people they devoured will rise up and devour the Chaldeans. Opposition to God will not last forever, God promises an upset.

2. God promises to _____ (9-11).

The Chaldeans would take the money they plundered from the surrounding defeated nations and strengthen their defenses. At the expense of many lives, they fought and worked tirelessly to fortify their city walls.

In arrogance, they pursued security in their own strength, by their own means. But God says in attempting to preserve their life at the cost of others, they have actually forfeited their life. The very walls that they built to make them secure will cry out against them. Their false sense of security will not stand. God promises to oppose.

< A BRIEF ASIDE >

It might be helpful for us to remember that this is good. God eradicating evil and sin that ensnares all of us is a good thing. All that is good, lovely, pure, and truly beautiful lies with Him, so for Him to offend or oppose all that negates Him and His goodness is good. We see this clearly in Jesus. Many Jews did not see this so clearly. They were expecting military might in their Messiah, but that is not how Jesus addressed the problem of sin and evil when he came. Instead, he bore our sin and evil upon himself. The Messiah's first coming was the beginning move of God's promised offense. His second coming will complete what he started! We are still awaiting the ultimate fulfillment of these promises!

3. God promises _____ (12-14).

The Chaldeans built their empire on the backs of those they conquered. Oppression and slave labor were rampant throughout the city. And God declares here in verse 13, all of this that they have done, they think it's

so great, it will all be destroyed. The Chaldeans have labored for nothing. They think their kingdom is an eternal one, they believe they have all wealth, power, and security without end, but no. Their evil empire will cease.

Contrast that with verse 14! The glory of the Lord will fill the whole earth. That is the true reality of the kingdom that will last forever.

4. God promises _____ (15-17).

There was no moral compass for the Chaldeans. As we have already read during our study, the Chaldeans determined justice, right and wrong, by their own terms. They abused others and forced their way upon them, reveling in their supposed glory. But God exposes them for who they really are, ashamed, uncircumcised. The violence and destruction they have caused in their conquests will now be released upon them. God promises to expose their evil and shame for all to see.

5. God promises _____ (18-20).

Yahweh was unique, set apart from other beliefs of the day. God exposes the lie of these little "g" gods made by human hands. Rather than trusting in the Creator God, they trusted in the gods they created. In the end, they are nothing. They cannot teach. They cannot speak. They cannot wake up. They are not living, breathing, or active in the world.

This taunt-song then concludes with the contrast of the Lord, Yahweh, He is not created by human hands. He is not a wooden thing. He is already and always awake. He speaks and reveals who He is. We do not form Him according to our image, He has formed us according to His.

As much as there is a time to bring your concerns and questions to God, there is a time to stop complaining. There is a time to stop doubting. There is a time to stop with the questions and behold who you know God to be. He is not apathetic to sin. He is not turning a blind eye to suffering. He is not asleep. He is not inactive. He is in control, and He will bring about His purpose and all that He wants to accomplish in His time.