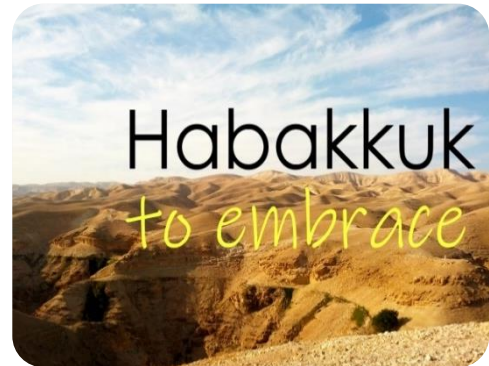


# HABAKKUK 2 vs 1

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In chapter 1, from Habakkuk's OT vantage point we learn: the fierce, treacherous Chaldeans – the worst of the nations who dominated the Babylonian empire were on their way; from the NT vantage point, we know: the Chaldeans are still on their way. The church might be dormant and snoozing; but the Chaldeans are not. Daniel says, they will be doing their work hard as iron smashing and destroying until the whole world is broken, which means... until the great and terrifying Day when Messiah comes... with power and great glory.



Habakkuk's frustration and faulty thinking didn't bother the LORD, who is a good Teacher... who knows his students need to rethink, and reconsider... and even change their thinking, until they think correctly. Habakkuk may have been wrong in some of his understanding, but at least he was not lukewarm! From verse 12 through 17 Habakkuk effectively interrupted the LORD with a million questions flooding his mind... and perhaps, the prophet noticed the LORD finally stopped talking.

Remember: to Habakkuk, it looks like the enemy is winning; so, Habakkuk writes:

**1 I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower** / Habakkuk knew he needed to change his perspective... and doing his part, instead of burying his head... he climbed to the highest point he knew... the guard tower; the high tower positioned to search the greatest distance in order to anticipate the approaching attack,

**and watch to see what He speaks in me, and what I will answer when I am reproved.**

**2 And the LORD answered me,** and said, **Write the vision and make it plain upon tables** / all that Habakkuk saw and will record, i.e. all this little book;

Write **the vision... large and legible,**

**that he who reads it / the messenger... may run.**

**3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time** / Daniel uses this word repeatedly referring to when the time of the Gentiles is fulfilled; this phrase first appears when we read when the LORD appeared to Abraham with 2 others and they ask: Is there anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time, I will return to you, at this time next year -- **Genesis 18:14**. So these words may have a near fulfillment identified by the bible scholars; but more importantly for us it has an end time fulfillment... which the NT church can also find applicable,

**but at the end HE will speak, and not lie: though HE tarry, wait for HIM; because HE will surely come, HE will not tarry** / this vision is **not** in reference to a lifeless thing, so we eliminate the impersonal pronoun: **it**: this vision is what the **LORD of glory** gave Habakkuk to speak; so, let's hear the verse again.

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For **the vision** is yet for an appointed time, but at the end **HE** will speak, and **not** lie:

though **HE** delays, wait for **HIM**; because **HE** will surely come, **HE** will **not** delay.

**4** Behold, his soul / the Chaldean, the overconfident worst of the nations; of Babylonian that is coming; who the Lord is raising up

his soul... which is lifted up / puffed up with deception and pride... is not upright in him:

**but the just lives by faith** / remember:

**the LORD** is answering Habakkuk, so keep this Vision in view... no matter what else you might see: this verse can also read:

**but the one doing right... lives... by faith... in Me!** In what He said to His people; in what He taught His people; and in what He still teaches His people. Martin Luther said, Look upon His Fatherly-Friendly heart; believe Him, trust Him, be committed to Him and be set free. He is not angry. He also said: if it were not so, I would have told you.

And the Vision continues,

**5** Furthermore, wine is deceptive and **he** / the Babylonian... is a proud man / he's a braggart... **he** doesn't rest, he is *rapacious*... who enlarges his *insatiable* desire as hell and the grave, and like Death cannot be satisfied, but gathers all nations, and rakes in all people:

**6** will not these take up a parable **against him**, and a taunting proverb **against him**, and say / the victims of injustice, as the LORD highlights **5** faces of these greasy Babylonians – Chaldeans, the worst of the nations... busy at work,

**Woe to him** / to the monetary Babylonian **[1]** how terrible it will be for him... **who increases that which is not his! How long?** / the LORD says: don't worry; The LORD's ways are not our ways; His thoughts are not our thoughts; wait for Him; seek the LORD while He can be found.

and to **him** who piles up / who burdens himself... with loans and pledges and debts... like jackasses carrying bundles and burdens and bags of thick clay!

**That is not the way to do things right.**

**7** Will they / will the creditors... not rise up suddenly and bite you, and awake all who will harass you, and you will be for them plunder?



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<sup>8</sup> **Because you / the monetary Babylonians... have plundered many nations, all the remnant of the people will plunder you /** just imagine the entire corrupt financial system painstakingly assembled over centuries, will one day collapse – perhaps sooner than we can think;

**because all the bloodshed, and for the violence of the earth... of the towns... and of all that dwell in it.**

<sup>9</sup> **Woe to him** / the squirrelling Babylonian [2] how terrible it will be for him... **who greedily covets evil gain for his house /** Moffatt wrote: woe to him who stores ill-gotten gains; **who sets his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of evil /** having worked many years in the inner-city... as well as associated with folks of the private jet crowd, this attitude is **not** exclusive to Beverly Hills; River Oaks; or the Midtown Manhattan districts; but it is clearly seen in the 1% who possess the 50% of the world's wealth... who perhaps think it humorous to have achieved so much; who falsely think they will be safe from the calamity that is coming!

<sup>10</sup> **You devised a shameful thing for your house by cutting off many people, and sinned against your proud soul /** in other words: the worst inadvertently planned their own demise and downfall.

<sup>11</sup> **For the stone will cry out of the wall, and the lath will answer it.**

**And that is not the way to do things right.**

<sup>12</sup> **Woe to him** / the biased Babylonian [3] how terrible it will be for him... **who builds a town with bloodshed, and establishes a city with injustice and crime!**

**That is not the way to do things right.**

<sup>13</sup> **Behold, has not the LORD of hosts said... the people labor in the fire, and the nations weary themselves for vanity? /** obviously, drudgery and vanity... is not evidence of being created in the image and likeness of God.

<sup>14</sup> **For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD,** as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>15</sup> **Woe to him** / the prurient, indecent Babylonian [4] *how terrible it will be for him...*

**who gives his neighbor drink, who puts your bottle to him, and also makes him drunk, that you may expose him!**

**Definitely... not the way to do things right**

And the Lord adds...

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<sup>16</sup> **You** worst of the nations-Chaldean lookalikes; and wannabes... **are filled with shame, not glory: you will drink also, and be uncircumcised: the cup in the LORD's right hand will come to you, and disgrace will be your glory.**

<sup>17</sup> For the **violence** of Lebanon will cover you, and the plunder of bestial governments... which made them afraid, because of mankind's bloodshed, and for the **violence** of the **earth**, of the towns, and of all who dwell in it.

<sup>18</sup> **What profit is the graven image / the manufactured idol that God said don't make... that its maker has carved; an image and teacher of lies -- a false guide, its maker trusts in his own work, making dumb idols?**

<sup>19</sup> **Woe to him** / the deistic-atheistic Babylonian [5] *how terrible it will be for him...*

who says to the wood, **"Awake!"** to the dumb / to the speechless... stone, **"Arise!"**

That's not the way to do things right.

**It will teach?** / it's going to teach you?! this emphatic question expresses astonishment...

**Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in it / so what is that inanimate object going to teach you?**

<sup>20</sup> **But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence / let the fancy speculations stop; let all the chatter fade away. When 3 sleepy disciples were on the Mount of Transfiguration... the eternal Father finally had to tell Peter: shut up: and listen to what His beloved Son had to say.**

**Let all the earth keep silence / and zip the lip... before Him.**

That is the way to do things right.

Listen to the LORD; embrace Him; He's a good teacher; take our cues from Him!

This is My Father's World

| Salvation is Your Name

| JESUS, it is YOU

CHECK OUT OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS AROUND THE WORLD SINGING GOD'S PRAISE:

