

How Long, O Lord?

Four Woes
Habakkuk 2:6-17
February 18, 2024

Shall not all these take up their taunt against him, with scoffing and riddles for him, and say... - Habakkuk 2:6

I. WOE TO THE PLUNDERERS

- Plunderers get plundered. It is the way of the nations. Violence begets violence, harm begets harm. The law of *Lex Talionis* works personally and nationally in our fallen world (Deut. 19:21).

II. WOE TO THE EXTORTIONERS

- Those who provide riches for themselves while causing others to suffer will find that their victims cry out to the Lord (Ex. 22:25-27; Psa. 15; Luke 12:13-21).

III. WOE TO THE PRIDEFUL

- Building up our own reputations at the cost of others is a practice in futility. It never lasts (1 Cor. 4:7).
- The day is coming when all of this “name building” will come to a crashing end. In that day, “the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea” (Vs. 14; Isa. 11:9).

IV. WOE TO THE VIOLENT AND SADISTIC

- Babylon did not merely conquer. They humiliated and brutalized. The Lord will repay them for their sadism. He has observed the violence done to humans, animals, and the environment (Vss. 15-17; Jonah 4:11).

V. THE MORE EXCELLENT WAY

- In Christ, life is significantly different (Micah 6:8; Matt. 5:2-11; 1 Cor. 12:30-13:13).

KNOW: Pride goes before destruction, and the proud are brought down to humility. When we build ourselves up by bringing others down, we can be sure that our sin will be revisited upon us. There is a better way to live.

DO: Live opposite the Babylonians and those like them. Pursue Christ, faithfulness, humility and charity.

Suggested Reading:

Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary on Sin by Cornelius Plantinga Jr. (Available in the LifePoint Library)

For Children:

Buck Denver's Bad, Bad Day by Phil Vischer (Available in the LifePoint Library)

NEXT WEEK'S PREACHING TEXT: Habakkuk 2:18-20

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Habakkuk 2:6-17

1. Why is God so opposed to Babylonian behavior?
2. What can you discern concerning God's character from this list of woes?
3. What should we do if we see ourselves in any of these woes?
4. What is the end of the wicked? Where does our treachery leave us? Why then, do you think, do so many pursue this lifestyle?
5. How shall we live our lives in light of this passage?
6. What application points do you draw from our passage that you can apply immediately in your life?