

A Study of Habakkuk

WK3: The Five Woes (Hab 2:6-20)

Sunday June 13th, 2021

Pastor Adam Christian | First Covenant Church, River Falls | www.rfcov.org

The Five Woes of Habakkuk

“Woe” _____

Babylon serves as _____

1. vs 6b-8 “Woe to him who piles up stolen goods and makes himself wealthy by extortion!”

The Crime: _____

The Judgement: _____

2. vs 9-11 “Woe to him who builds his house by unjust gain, setting his nest on high to escape the clutches of ruin!”

The Crime: _____

The Judgement: _____

3. vs 12-14 “Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed and establishes a town by injustice!”

The Crime: _____

The Judgment: _____

4. vs 15-17 “Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbors . . . so that he can gaze on their naked bodies!”

The Crime: _____

The Judgment: _____

5. vs 18-20 “Woe to him who says to wood, ‘Come to life!’”

The Crime: _____

The Judgment: _____

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Go Deeper . . .

Use these questions for further study individually or in a small group

1. It is easy to read Hab 2:6-20 and put ourselves in the place of righteous Habakkuk or the victimized nations. But the oracle is meant to function as a warning and lesson to all nations across all times, including our own.

Why is it important to apply this oracle to our own nation?

Why can it be difficult for us to imagine that we might be Babylon?

2. Re-read Hab 2:6-20 and consider the 5 Woes.

Which 2-3 do you most clearly see in our society/nation?

How are they present here in the St. Croix Valley?

What are the root causes of these sins?

How might we begin to address them in a Kingdom way?

3. Look through the 5 Woes again, this time praying for the Spirit to reveal which of these “crimes” is present in your own life.

Where might you need to confess and repent?

What steps are necessary for you to begin living differently?

Who can help you on this journey?

3. The Oracle of Woes ends with vs 20 and the command for all the earth to be silent before YHWH.

Why should humans be silent in the presence of God?

What might this command mean in the context of vs 18 & 19?

What might it mean when placed against the story of Gen 1 and the God who spoke creation into being?

The command to be silent can also be translated as “be still” “hold your peace” or simply “hush.” Read Zeph 1:7 & Psalm 46: how does this command extend beyond sound to other activities and actions? What would being silent actually look like?

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