

Habakkuk - Life's Questions

The Question of Justice **Habakkuk 2:1-20**

Why is there so little justice in the world?

The rich rule and oppress the poor
The powerful make their own rules
The venerable are exploited endlessly

Review - **Habakkuk 1**

3 questions - that God's Answers

1 Why don't you do something about sin God?

2. How can a Holy God use evil men?

3. How long must we endure?

God prepares the heart to hear - **2:1-5**

It is a vision that should be seen by all
It is a vision that relates to the end times
It is a vision that gives faith to the righteous

Woe to prideful men - they shall face judgement

Pride is everywhere and takes all manner of shapes.

- Here is the rich man, proud of what he has
- There is the poor man, proud of his "honor" in having less
- Here is the talented man, proud of what he can do
- There is the man of few talents, proud of his hard work
- Here is the religious man, proud of his religion
- There is the unbeliever, proud of his unbelief
- Here is the establishment man, proud of his place in society
- There is the counter-cultural man, proud of his "outcast" status
- Here is the learned man, proud of his intelligence and learning
- Here is the simple man, proud of his simplicity

Woe 1 - Woe to those controlled by GREED **6-8**

- who increases what is not his
- who plunder and loot others
- who become rich through unjust interest

Judgement - they will be plundered and lose all

Woe 2 - Woe to those who EXPLOIT others **9-11**

- who build on that taken from others
- who cut off others to build up themselves
- who hide their deeds behind their accomplishments

Judgement - They will be revealed to their shame

Even the stones and rafters will tell his secrets
Jesus said the stones could cry out **Luke 19:40**

Woe 3 - Woe to those who uses VIOLENCE **12-14**

- who builds a city on violence and bloodshed
- who forces others to labor
- who threatens others with fire

Judgement - They will be overcome by the knowledge of the Glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea

God's plans are that peace will overcome violence

Woe 4 - Woe to those who use others with INHUMANITY and IMMORALITY

- who use alcohol to degrade others into immorality **15-17**
- who shame themselves with their actions
- who force others to drink of the cup of their shame

Judgement - they will drink of the cup of the wrath of the Lord

God will hold them accountable for the damage done

Woe 5 - Woe to those who worship IDOLS instead of God

- who trusts in his own handiwork
- who bow before speechless things
- who seek gold which is lifeless

Judgement - they will be silent before the King on His Throne

Romans 14:11 11 For the Scriptures say, "'As surely as I live,' says the LORD, every knee will bend to me, and every tongue will confess and give praise to God. Also see Philippians 2:9-11

What causes the war on justice today?

Pride of man, races, nations

What causes the injustice between people?

Pride and Greed
Exploitation of the venerable
Violence against the weak
Inhumanity of immorality
Idolatry of those seeking what their hands have made

What should we do?

Live justly even in an unjust world
Seek to promote justice with our all (Speak up, show up, support)
Trust in the final outcome of God

What is our hope?

God is still on the throne
His timing is always right (even when we do not understand)
His Glory will not be lost, shared or destroyed

Someday the scales of justice will be perfectly balanced