

## Learn from Wisdom's Taunt Pt. 2

**Habakkuk 2:6-11 July 17, 2024 My Worth is Not in What I Own**

**Habakkuk's view**—how long will I call, I cry out violence? Silence, getting away w—**God's view of reality;** righteous by his faithfulness will live; faithfulness characterizes the righteous--look longer, trust longer, has to do w eyes—eyes of your heart Matt. 6—eye bad, whole body full of darkness; **looking at self?** Not upright, **God's view of haughty man?** self's desires brings immediate gratification, immediate destruction for those in their way, but long-term unstableness, payment v. 5 prelude for 5 woes, v.6a “Will not all of these take up a taunt-song against him, (from verb to be like or similar, a proverb—don't be like . . . Even mockery (figurative language, scorn) laugh at, but more, shaking of head, object lesson; and insinuations against him riddles—veiled sharp comment--“enigmatic character of the jibe establishes the permanence of the hurt” Robertson, p. 185 all three terms from wisdom literature; God promised if Israel disobeyed, would be taunted Deut. 28:15, 36-37, I Ki. 9:6-7, now nations run over by Chaldeans will taunt Is. 14:4-10, Jer. 50:8-15, **God's reality?** certainty of judgment vv. 6b-8 And say, ‘Woe to him (Hebrew--Hoy), ahah, Ah! **who speaking about?** ‘Woe to him who increases what is not his— For how long—And makes himself rich with loans?’ **Increases** (multiplies), more and more stuff—**rich** desirable—but happens at expense of others--what is not his, taking advantage—robbery, fraud, but then language of extortion—I'll lend you THIS, if you give me THIS in exchange **pledges/loans**—business practices that are to my advantage/manipulate to benefit at other's expense; **For how long**—seems to be endless—no stopping them; when will there be justice? **In order for us to learn from this, must feel weight of crime—what is the heart of this crime?** **What mobilizes this heart? where does desire to “have” negatively affect our relationships?** “When power becomes a tool to take advantage of others, ‘woe to you.’” Bailey, p. 333 **Here is what WILL happen** 7 “Will not your creditors those who put the bite on another rise up suddenly, And those who collect from you awaken? Indeed, you will become plunder for them. ever been afraid of someone waking up/noticing? Here unbelievable picture of conquerors being afraid of conquered) **poetic justice is point**—all you give out, will come back, took unjustly (wasn't yours), will be plundered—v. 8 “Because you have looted many nations, looted (extorted); tearing through other's lands leaving mess behind; not just humans, but stuff of God's creation—All the remainder of the peoples will loot you— Because of human bloodshed and violence done to the land, To the town and all its inhabitants. happen to you; Pr. 22:16, 13:11 when? suddenly Pr. 6:15, 29:1 retribution in kind; v. 6 and 7 both begin w same word—negative rhetorical question—functions like a double negative—of course they will! Bailey

### I. Don't be like the Chaldeans. Don't Gain at Another's Expense

**First woe** against greed—seek/take what want until no more to get, BUT, you will pay—victims are your creditors; 2<sup>nd</sup> woe builds same theme—9 “Woe to him who gets evil gain for his house To put his nest on high, To be delivered from the hand of calamity! evil gain—v. 10 devised speaks of planning, thinking ahead, diligence, working hard toward goal; in day of living for moment, these good qualities, but where are you heading and how are you getting there? (same word gain in I Sam. 8:1-3--Those who look out for themselves at expense of others why do they do this? 1. **Make a name** For self, their house descendants 2. **Create a secure place** nest bird in crag of mountain—why? 3. **Protect from evil** fears real & imagined, world filled w scary people so set up defense—want enough to be free from these; if we have same desires, why slow to sympathize w them? some of these enemies are because of his actions; (word for calamity is rah? Evil, same as in beg. Of verse) **evil is using evil to escape from evil**; God's response through the prophet? 10 “You have devised a shameful thing for your house By cutting off many peoples; So you are sinning against yourself. like first one (get punishment in kind—1. **instead of name—shame** God speaks against this Jer. 22:13-17, Ezek. 22:27-30 (same word, gain evil gain—think about this—on surface wouldn't see this—what would you see from princes and prophets? They will fall, Ahithophel II Sam. 15-17, Josh. 7:24-26, Achan, look how quickly went from desire, name, security to shame; 3. **Instead of safety from evil, lose life** plotting the ruin (NIV), **sinning against self**, against own soul (long-term destruction of his entire person)—same word in Pr. 20:2, Num. 16:38-40 II Ki. 9:24-26, God's perspective, instead of building themselves up, they participated in “the process of their own destruction.” Bailey, p. 335 Lk. 12:13-21 rich man with barns thought secure, but his riches called out for his soul p. 336 2. **Instead of security/peace, tension & instability** v. 11 “Surely the stone will cry out from the wall, And the rafter will answer it from the framework. Robertson, agonizing process of self-destruction—one part groans, answered by another; laying foundation for ruin for self & those after (read Daniel—539—65 years or so wiped out) Num. 24:21 Kenites, Jer. 49:16-17 Edom, Obadiah 3-4, Calvin, “the rich are inebriated with false confidence, when they surpass all others; for they think not themselves to be mortals, but imagine that they have another life, as though they had a world of their own, free from all dangers.” p. 101 inscription found where Nebuchadnezzar said one of chief purposes for his strengthening the walls of Babylon was to make an everlasting name for his reign—prays to Markuk: “Life for many generations, an abundant posterity, a secure throne, and a long reign, grant as thy gift” Robertson, p. 193

### II. Don't be like Babylon: Don't seek security and identity at the expense of others

Calvin, How long? “Though every one says this as to others, yet no one as to himself. Let us therefore take heed that, when we reprove injustice in others, we come without delay to ourselves, and be impartial judges. Self-love so blinds us, that we seek to absolve ourselves from that fault which we freely condemn in others. In general things men are always more correct in their judgment, that is, in matters in which they themselves are not concerned; but as soon as they come to themselves, they become blind, and all rectitude vanishes, and all judgment is gone.” P. 94 “Had they been contented with some moderate portion, they might have lived cheerfully and happily, as we see to be the case with all the godly; who though they possess but little, are yet cheerful, for they live in hope, and know that their supplies are in God’s hand, and expect everything from his blessing. Hence then, their cheerfulness, because they have no anxious fears. But they who inebriate themselves with riches, find that they carry a useless burden, under which they lie down, as it were, sunk and buried.” Pp. 95-96 **What sobers you as you hear these proverb/taunts against Babylon?**

**Application:** gets gain (bosea, besa) same two words **Pr. 15:27, Pr. 1:18-19** how do you prove covetousness? No room for asking for favors, getting others to help you? Asking for gifts? Should I be independent? We have the same desires as the Chaldeans, Name, protect self--children, set all out of evil’s reach; are these and other dreams selfish? See cost for those in Russia/Ukraine, elsewhere (Burma/Myanmar); **how can these seemingly good desires lead to evil—to cutting off life from others?** Deeper question, **Where is your security?** (for them, in what they could grab—financially, power, etc. so set apart from the others (**commoners—Mrs. Block w her club—racial slur, dress up**) For some of us, may have little nest egg—most of us, have enough to get by—**then where do we look to set ourselves apart from the commoners (so not touched by their selfishness, etc.)** knowledge, wit, humor, Christianity—full of service & “gifts” hearing from God, more obedient, tighter “convictions”, children turning out right, health, independence from other’s telling us what to do, etc. **once again, depends on motives—where is your heart?** **Phil. 3:8-10, II Tim. 2:20-22** try to better ourselves, provide for ourselves, protect ourselves; call it freedom, call it discernment, but when not love God, pursuing knowing Him more, fellowship w Him, trust Him completely, then our **making name/protecting self at other’s expense—serving for our own benefit—can you see some of your responses through lens of people around you (could you see how any could see you as cutting them off; could others see you as living for something other than being found in Christ and being useful for His service)? see perhaps where live trying to protect self from past bad experiences rather than give ourselves to God to protect and serving Him in other’s lives?** Watch Out! Woe! lose very thing looking for (family name, secure place, no evil penetrate) **while you contemplate whether to endure sludge, take risk of associating w someone, someone else is doing same to you—you affect those around you; (Achan, Ahithophel, Ahab** **1. Which kingdom are you building EVEN when you seek to serve God?** **2. When disgusted by injustice, make sure you look carefully at God’s justice.** We HATE to see someone gain at expense of another (beg our kids to share, try to share ourselves); in our dreams, don’t always notice how/when we step on others to get them, how disobey God b/c of our focus on dreams, safety; Everytime you feel disgusted, frustrated w injustice, remember **God WILL bring justice II Thess. 1:6-10** trouble for those who trouble Christians; but also sees how we treat others including those who owe us something—**Matt. 18:32-35**—answer to? Question from Peter how many times; **thing about this when want justice—the justice you enact will come back to you—those acting unjustly (tone, timing, etc.) “But such people never may presume that God’s mercies will continue any longer than the present moment. Divine retribution is sure to come, and it may come without additional prior warning.” Robertson, p. 190—how, how would you answer, why does God wait?** among other things, **To show mercy to hardened sinners—including his children,** life shows you that you need more sanctifying (meat doesn’t thaw immediately); **Corrie Ten Boom** had to have God deal w her—sister first, then life—changed attitude toward those who had abused, taken from her, etc.; **in order for there to be Promised land, had to be judgment for people in land—**or do you think God jilted them b/c He rooted for His own kids/favorites—remember that God cared for the Rahab’s; what was she doing for 40 years wandering—sun on just/unjust, being born, having children, sinning, yes, but having heart prepared) **but doesn’t mean won’t bring justice** Heb. 10:31—terrifying thing **II Pet. 3:9-11,** “While the mills of God may grind slowly, they grind exceedingly fine.” Robertson, p. 191 so afraid might get away—final judgment in eternity, but more made right down here than think but also **justice now—**people of God are getting this punishment b/c of their own corruption, even as goddess Chaldeans getting theirs now—not only is there retribution then b/r God, there is retribution now **Jm. 3:16, Gal. 5:15, Matt. 7:1-2,** Roberts, “the curse of war is far more pervasive than death, and in some ways the survivors feel its violence more profoundly than the dead.” In Bailey p. 333 **Applic** **God, I can’t live with this situation any longer—I’m being unfairly treated. God’s final judgment WILL come; Are you ready?** When see how far short you fall even as rest in righteousness of Christ, will worship God because of His mercies and will willingly live under His leadership building eternal kingdom **Matt. 6:33** living for that reward; build what helps you trust God (grow in faith), then **1. relationships** will be for building up & not for tearing down—b/c won’t be loving them first, but loving Him—following Him (as He loves, we love—Eph. 4:32, 5:1) **open ourselves up to others as they are willing to deal Biblically w what comes out—**take on the mess that comes as do—will be able b/c fruit of Spirit is long-suffering, etc. **2. possessions** own will be tools for kingdom & gifts from God—so not destroyed when taken—**God help us to make Him our security—**strong tower—want sleep? **Pr. 19:23, Heb. 12:28;** only then will we not bite/devour/ step on/but free to deal w sin in own life as comes out & in others lives/ **free to live life of gratefulness to God and encouraging others to run towards Him** (My Hope is Built)

**Numbers 16:38-40** “As for the censers of these men who have sinned at the cost of their lives, let them be made into hammered sheets for a plating of the altar, since they did present them before the LORD and they are holy; and they shall be for a sign to the sons of Israel.”<sup>39</sup> So Eleazar the priest took the bronze censers which the men who were burned had offered, and they hammered them out as a plating for the altar,<sup>40</sup> as a reminder to the sons of Israel that no layman who is not of the descendants of Aaron should come near to burn incense before the LORD; so that he will not become like Korah and his company—just as the LORD had spoken to him through Moses.

**Deuteronomy 28:15, 36-37** “But it shall come about, if you do not obey the LORD your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: 36 “The LORD will bring you and your king, whom you set over you, to a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods, wood and stone. 37 “You shall become a horror, a proverb, and a taunt among all the people where the LORD drives you.

**Joshua 7:24-26** Then Joshua and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the mantle, the bar of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent and all that belonged to him; and they brought them up to the valley of Achor.<sup>25</sup> Joshua said, “Why have you troubled us? The LORD will trouble you this day.” And all Israel stoned them with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones.<sup>26</sup> They raised over him a great heap of stones that stands to this day, and the LORD turned from the fierceness of His anger. Therefore the name of that place has been called the valley of Achor to this day.

**1 Samuel 8:1-3** And it came about when Samuel was old that he appointed his sons judges over Israel. 2 Now the name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judging in Beersheba. 3 His sons, however, did not walk in his ways, but turned aside after dishonest gain and took bribes and perverted justice.

**2 Samuel 16:23** The advice of Ahithophel, which he gave in those days, was as if one inquired of the word of God; so was all the advice of Ahithophel regarded by both David and Absalom.

**2 Samuel 17:23** Now when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled *his* donkey and arose and went to his home, to his city, and set his house in order, and strangled himself; thus he died and was buried in the grave of his father.

**2 Kings 9:24–26** And Jehu drew his bow with his full strength and shot Joram between his arms; and the arrow went through his heart and he sank in his chariot. **25** Then Jehu said to Bidkar his officer, “Take him up and cast him into the property of the field of Naboth the Jezreelite, for I remember when you and I were riding together after Ahab his father, that the LORD laid this oracle against him: **26** ‘Surely I have seen yesterday the blood of Naboth and the blood of his sons,’ says the LORD, ‘and I will repay you in this property,’ says the LORD. Now then, take and cast him into the property, according to the word of the LORD.”

**Proverbs 1:18–19** But they lie in wait for their own blood; They ambush their own lives. <sup>19</sup> So are the ways of everyone who gains by violence; It takes away the life of its possessors.

**Proverbs 6:15** Therefore his calamity will come suddenly; Instantly he will be broken and there will be no healing.

**Proverbs 13:11** Wealth obtained by fraud dwindles, But the one who gathers by labor increases it.

**Proverbs 15:27** He who profits illicitly troubles his own house, But he who hates bribes will live.

**Proverbs 19:23** The fear of the LORD *leads* to life, So that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil.

**Proverbs 20:2** The terror of a king is like the growling of a lion; He who provokes him to anger forfeits his own life.

**Proverbs 22:16** He who oppresses the poor to make more for himself Or who gives to the rich, will only come to poverty.

**Proverbs 29:1** A man who hardens his neck after much reproof Will suddenly be broken beyond remedy.

**Jeremiah 22:13–17** “Woe to him who builds his house without righteousness And his upper rooms without justice, Who uses his neighbor’s services without pay And does not give him his wages, **14** Who says, ‘I will build myself a roomy house With spacious upper rooms, And cut out its windows, Paneling it with cedar and painting it bright red.’ **15** “Do you become a king because you are competing in cedar? Did not your father eat and drink And do justice and righteousness? Then it was well with him. **16** “He pled the cause of the afflicted and needy; Then it was well. Is not that what it means to know Me?” Declares the LORD. **17** “But your eyes and your heart Are intent only upon your own dishonest gain, And on shedding innocent blood And on practicing oppression and extortion.”

**Jeremiah 49:16–17** “As for the terror of you, The arrogance of your heart has deceived you, O you who live in the clefts of the rock, Who occupy the height of the hill. Though you make your nest as high as an eagle’s, I will bring you down from there,” declares the LORD. **17** “Edom will become an object of horror; everyone who passes by it will be horrified and will hiss at all its wounds.

**Ezekiel 22:27–30** “Her princes within her are like wolves tearing the prey, by shedding blood and destroying lives in order to get dishonest gain. **28** “Her prophets have smeared whitewash for them, seeing false visions and divining lies for them, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD,’ when the LORD has not spoken. **29** “The people of the land have practiced oppression and committed robbery, and they have wronged the poor and needy and have oppressed the sojourner without justice. **30** “I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one.

**Obadiah 3–4** “The arrogance of your heart has deceived you, You who live in the clefts of the rock, In the loftiness of your dwelling place, Who say in your heart, ‘Who will bring me down to earth?’ **4** “Though you build high like the eagle, Though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down,” declares the LORD

**Matthew 7:1–2** “Do not judge so that you will not be judged. **2** “For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.

**Matthew 18:32–35** “Then summoning him, his lord said to him, ‘You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. **33** ‘Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?’ **34** “And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. **35** “My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”

**Galatians 5:15** But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

**Galatians 6:7–10** Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. **8** For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. **9** Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. **10** So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

**Philippians 3:8–10** More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, <sup>9</sup> and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith, <sup>10</sup> that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;

**2 Timothy 2:20–22** Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. <sup>21</sup> Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these *things*, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. <sup>22</sup> Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love *and* peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

**2 Thessalonians 1:6–10** For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, **7** and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, **8** dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. **9** These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, **10** when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed.

**Hebrews 12:28** Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;

**James 3:16** For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

**2 Peter 3:9–11** The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. <sup>11</sup> Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,