

Learn from Wisdom's Taunt

Habakkuk 2:6-8 July 10, 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 in next verses against oppressor by those being oppressed v.6a “Will not all of these take up a taunt-song against him, (taunt-song—from verb to be like or similar, a proverb—don't be like Benedict Arnold, OJ Simpson, don't be like Bill Clinton's private life, **can you think of more?** Even mockery (figurative language, scorn) scorn, laugh at, but more, shaking of head, object lesson—LEARN from this; and insinuations against him riddles—elusive thing, veiled sharp comment--“enigmatic character of the jibe establishes the permanence of the hurt” Robertson, p. 185 **all three terms from wisdom literature;** **what is surprising about this taunt song? Who taunts?** Usually not the smallest unless the quickest, smartest so can get away or squashed—**think China** over Hong Kong—allowing NO dissent—North Korea sending trash back to South Korea in response to South Korea sending things against government to north; **Judah TINY, but the way this said is that it WILL happen**—there WILL be a time when can call this out & be free from repercussions—**less than 70 years, 539 BC, brought to nothing;** lest we think this beneath the dignity of God to taunt--God already promised that 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 Ha, (Hebrew--Hoy) onomatopoeic ahah, Ah! Tone of mockery—but often associated with lament for dead (I Ki. 13:30, Jer. 22:18)—actions associated with this word carry seeds of death Bailey **who are we 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 problem is that happens at expense of others-- **what is not his,** not right/not theirs—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; see and take—it's mine! **For how long**—seems to be endless—no stopping them—rich get richer; 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 rise up suddenly, And those who collect from you awaken? Indeed, you will become plunder for them. creditors (word also used “to bite”); **awaken** (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**—putting the bite on someone; spoils of war are seen as loans in v. 6, now will need to be paid back on day of reckoning v. 8 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; 6b--**Pr. 28:8, 22:16, 13:11** 7—when? suddenly **Pr. 6:15, 29:1** retribution—eye for eye; b/c rich through other's failures (loans/pledges), those who take them down will show no mercy in return—enslaved by former slaves until can repay—never!!! 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

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 this proverb/taunt against Babylon? Applic.** We HATE to see someone gain at expense of another (beg our kids to share, try to share ourselves); when see it w Jews, Chaldeans, something burns inside us; therefore, **if God loves children, why does He wait?** we need to feel weight for consequences for all injustice--

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.

1 Kings 9:6–7 “But if you or your sons indeed turn away from following Me, and do not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them, 7 then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them, and the house which I have consecrated for My name, I will cast out of My sight. So Israel will become a proverb and a byword among all peoples.

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

Proverbs 28:8 He who increases his wealth by interest and usury Gathers it for him who is gracious to the poor.

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

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.

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.

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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,