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## **HABAKKUK 2:4-20**

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### **GETTING STARTED...**

When you were young, did you ever watch a brother or sister get in trouble for something you had also done? Usually you watch in a bit of trepidation wondering if you will also get in trouble while secretly trying to make sure that what you did was covered up. Watching them get in trouble would often stop you from doing it as well. In some ways that is exactly how our passage is meant to function in our Bibles. As we approach God's judgment on the nation of Babylon, we are meant to see what has happened to them and learn from their mistakes. While we may not live in ancient Babylon, the pattern of their lifestyle is very similar and we need to hear the warnings. However, God also promises incredible hope for his people, beyond just our temporal circumstances, we have a sure hope for the future.

### **READ THE TEXT: HABAKKUK 2:4-20**

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<sup>4</sup> "Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him,  
but the righteous shall live by his faith.

<sup>5</sup> "Moreover, wine is a traitor,  
an arrogant man who is never at rest.

His greed is as wide as Sheol;  
like death he has never enough.

He gathers for himself all nations  
and collects as his own all peoples."

<sup>6</sup> Shall not all these take up their taunt against him, with scoffing and riddles for  
him, and say,

"Woe to him who heaps up what is not his own—  
for how long?—  
and loads himself with pledges!"

<sup>7</sup> Will not your debtors suddenly arise,  
and those awake who will make you tremble?  
Then you will be spoil for them.

<sup>8</sup> Because you have plundered many nations,  
all the remnant of the peoples shall plunder you,  
for the blood of man and violence to the earth,  
to cities and all who dwell in them.

<sup>9</sup> “Woe to him who gets evil gain for his house,  
to set his nest on high,  
to be safe from the reach of harm!

<sup>10</sup> You have devised shame for your house  
by cutting off many peoples;  
you have forfeited your life.

<sup>11</sup> For the stone will cry out from the wall,  
and the beam from the woodwork respond.

<sup>12</sup> “Woe to him who builds a town with blood  
and founds a city on iniquity!

<sup>13</sup> Behold, is it not from the Lord of hosts  
that peoples labor merely for fire,  
and nations weary themselves for nothing?

<sup>14</sup> For the earth will be filled  
with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>15</sup> “Woe to him who makes his neighbors drink—  
you pour out your wrath and make them drunk,  
in order to gaze at their nakedness!

<sup>16</sup> You will have your fill of shame instead of glory.  
Drink, yourself, and show your uncircumcision!  
The cup in the Lord's right hand  
will come around to you,  
and utter shame will come upon your glory!

<sup>17</sup> The violence done to Lebanon will overwhelm you,  
as will the destruction of the beasts that terrified them,  
for the blood of man and violence to the earth,  
to cities and all who dwell in them.

<sup>18</sup> “What profit is an idol  
when its maker has shaped it,  
a metal image, a teacher of lies?  
For its maker trusts in his own creation  
when he makes speechless idols!

<sup>19</sup> Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake;  
to a silent stone, Arise!  
Can this teach?  
Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver,  
and there is no breath at all in it.

<sup>20</sup> But the Lord is in his holy temple;  
let all the earth keep silence before him.”

## UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. There are five “Woe” statements in this passage, identify each and put them into your own words.
2. What promises of hope do we find throughout this prophecy of judgment on Babylon?

### **REFLECTING ON THE SERMON**

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been applying to your heart from the sermon?

### **APPLYING THE POINT**

5. How should we apply prophecies like this into our life if we do not live in ancient Babylon? How do we make sure that our application is still through Jesus?
6. What parts of God's judgment on Babylon apply to our culture today? How do we make sure that we are not falling into the trap of following along with our current pattern today?
7. Habakkuk has incredible hope for the future, how do we make sure that in the midst of the chaos of our life that we do not lose hope to what God is ultimately doing?

### **PRAYING & SHARING**

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer? An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



## How to Use this Guide

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This guide is intended to help facilitate Promontory Small Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Small Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Small Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*“Great are the works of the LORD,  
studied by all who delight in them.” - Psalm 111:2*