

Habakkuk 2

A CONVERSATION WITH GOD (continued)

THE PROPHET (v1)

v1

"Oh, I know, I have been rash to talk out plainly this way to God!"

- Habakkuk confesses that he has poured out his heart and complaint before The Lord. He has spoken plainly, directly, honestly, boldly.
- He questions that maybe he has been too hasty in his words and worried that he has spoken out of turn.
- *Ecclesiastes 5:2 Be not rash with your mouth, and let not your heart be hasty to utter a word before God. For God is in heaven, and you are on earth; therefore let your words be few.*
- God's children have every right and invitation to come before almighty God with their cares and burdens but oh we must be so aware and so careful to come with reverence, knowledge and love. I often hear prayers and wonder if people really know whom it is they are praying to! If they truly knew the God of the Bible, they would be far more respectful and careful in His presence.

"I will [in my thinking] stand upon my post of observation and station myself on the tower or fortress, and will watch to see what He will say within me"

- I've poured out my heart before The Lord and not held back. I have cast my cares upon Him. I have brought my fears, concerns, petitions and intercession before Him. Now I will watch and wait in Faith to see His answer.
- It is interesting that Habakkuk talks of his "post of observation" and "tower". Habakkuk is not merely describing his accommodation as if he lived in a castle or fortress. He is standing on the Word of God and upon all His testimonies and promises. He is standing upon the tower of The Lord's loving kindnesses and tender mercies. He is standing and watching upon The Lord's faithfulness in dealing with His people. He will watch and wait from His relationship with The Lord and His knowledge of His God.
- *GILL: and this he said in character as a watchman, as all the prophets were: as a watchman takes the proper place he watches in and looks out, especially in time of danger and distress, if he can spy anyone bringing tidings, that he may receive it, and notify it to the people that have appointed him a watchman; so the prophet retired from the world, and gave himself up to meditation and prayer, and put himself in a waiting posture; looking up to the Lord, and expecting an answer to his expostulations with him, concerning the success of the enemies of God's people, and the calamities that were like to come upon them, that he might report it to them; see Isaiah 21:8,*

"what answer I will make [as His mouthpiece] to the perplexities of my complaint against Him."

- *GILL: either by the Lord, for using so much freedom and boldness in expostulations and reasonings with him, who is under no obligation to give an account of his matters unto the children of men; or by others, how he should be able to satisfy his own mind, and remove the scruples, doubts, and objections, that arose there against the providence of God, in prospering the wicked, and afflicting the righteous, and repel the temptation he was under to quarrel with God, and arraign his proceedings; and how he should answer the objections that his people made, both against his prophecies, and the providence of God, for which they reproved him*
- In this way His is preparing himself for whatever The Lord may say to him. He is yielding himself and submitting Himself to hear whatever The Lord may say and considering his response.
- When we bring all our hearts before The Lord and cast all our cares upon Him we too should give careful consideration to our response to His answer. We should consider the attitude of our hearts and how we will submit and surrender under His Sovereign hand. We ought to stand in faith believing in The Lord, trusting in His word, casting ourselves upon His goodness, His testimonies, His promises and His faithfulness. We ought to pray in faith. Praying in faith means so much more than simply saying what we want before God. It is to remember who we are praying to!! Just as Habakkuk did.

THE LORD (v2-20)

v2

"Write the vision and engrave it plainly upon tablets that everyone who passes may [be able to] read [it easily and quickly] as he hastens by."

- The vision was to be recorded. God's word was to be raised up as a testimony.
- This public recording of the vision will achieve 3 things: [1] The word of The Lord will be tested and proven/evidenced to be true. [2] The testimony and Godly ordination of Habakkuk will be proven. [3] The people will be without excuse.
- Consider the merciful heart cry of The Lord to give this word to Habakkuk. The Lord was under no obligation to give any warning. There was no responsibility on Him to make His plans known to them.

v3

"For the vision is yet for an appointed time and it hastens to the end [fulfilment]; but at the end it shall speak, and not lie:"

- People may look around and feel comfortable, safe and secure. They cannot see the enemy being strengthened; they cannot see the Chaldeans preparing for war; They do not recognise the danger they are in. People in Noah's day could not fathom a flood... But it surely came!
- *Matthew 24:36-39 of that day and hour knows no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. [37] But as the days of Noah were, so shall the coming of the Son of man be. [38] For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, [39] And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

"Though it tarry, wait [earnestly] for it, because it will surely come; it will not be behindhand on its appointed day."

- The word of God, at the end, will speak and not lie. The prophecies will come to pass. The day of Grace will come to an end. The Lord Jesus Christ will return, and every eye shall see and shall know that His word was and is true!
- *2 Peter 3:3-9 Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, [4] and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation." [5] For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, [6] through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. [7] But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. [8] But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand*

years, and a thousand years like one day. [9] 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.

- Just as the Habakkuk was commanded to publish the vision and to alert the people to the coming judgement so we ought to publish abroad the Gospel and alert the people to the coming of The Lord and His gospel.

v4

“the [rigidly] just and the [uncompromisingly] righteous man shall live by his faith and in his faithfulness.”

- The just man will live by his faith and faithfulness. A man who lives by faith will be faithful to what he believes. His actions/works will testify to what it is that he truly believes. The righteous man shall live and conduct himself faithfully in a way that demonstrates his relationship with The Lord. Other's will look on and see a life that is given over to God and that The Lord is with them.

- This is not an optional extra for those who are “called to ministry”. This is simply describing those who walk with The Lord and will be safe and saved as they are found in Him.

- The just shall live by their faith. They shall live by their faith in God, by their faith in His promises and in His testimonies. Their faith in Him will affect their conversation and their conduct. They will act in such a way that displays The Lord. Their lives will display the ways of The Lord and reveal His righteousness.

v5-13

“Woe to him who obtains wicked gain for his house”

“Woe to him who builds a town with blood and establishes a city by iniquity!”

- Sin is confronted and judgement is passed. “Woe” indicates a great and terrible punishment from which there will be no escape. A punishment not only on these men but upon their families, their homes, their land and their very memory.

- Their punishment will be destruction!

- Notice also that “woe” is a lament. It is a cry of pain and anguish. The wrath that is to come upon them is not vindictive and it is not dealt out with bitterness or pleasure. It is like saying my heart breaks for them, cry for them, weep for those who will not repent for judgement surely will be passed and punishment surely will be dealt out.

v14

“But [the time is coming when] the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.”

- We are living in this time. There are not many places on earth where the gospel has not been preached. His Gospel, His Word truly has filled the earth and is found across the globe.

- Mark 16:20 *And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord kept working with them and confirming the message by the attesting signs and miracles that closely accompanied [it]. Amen (so be it).*

- Acts 8:1 *...and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles (special messengers).*

- It is worth remembering here that there is still much work to be done. The Gospel truly has gone forth into all the earth but there are still untold millions who need to hear the Gospel! There are still so many people in our own countries and abroad who do not know who Jesus is.

- GILL: *The “knowledge” of all this glory will not be a mere notional and speculative one, but special and spiritual; an experimental knowledge, accompanied with affection, approbation, confidence, and appropriation: and “the earth will be filled with” this; that is, the inhabitants of it: this had an accomplishment in part in the times of the apostles, when they were sent into all the world to preach the Gospel to every creature, and diffused the savour of the knowledge of Christ everywhere; and had a further accomplishment in the times of Constantine, when the whole Roman empire, or all the world, became Christians; and again at the time of the Reformation, when many nations, especially in Europe, were freed from Popish darkness by the pure light of the Gospel; but will have its final accomplishment in the latter day;*

v15-17

“Woe to him who gives his neighbours drink... that you may look on their stripped condition and pour out foul shame [on their glory]!”

- 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 *Do you not know that the unrighteous and the wrongdoers will not inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived (misled): neither the impure and immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor those who participate in homosexuality, [10] Nor cheats (swindlers and thieves), nor greedy graspers, nor drunkards, nor foulmouthed revilers and slanderers, nor extortioners and robbers will inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God.*

- We are to be careful with our mindfulness and focus. We are to remain sober, vigilant, watching and interceding, caring for those around us...

- 1 Peter 4:7 *But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober and watch unto prayer.*

- There is too much at stake. There is too much to lose. People's lives and eternities will be determined by our lives and testimonies and woe to him who will cause other's to enter a lost eternity in hell!!

v18-19

“For the maker trusts in his own creations [as his gods] when he makes dumb idols.”

“Woe to him who says to the wooden image, Awake!”

- Habakkuk points out the foolishness and futility of idol worship. How silly it is that man would create a thing and consider it divine.

- God's word is so abundantly clear on this point. There are to be no idols, no images, no “things” prayed to, revered or worshipped.

- Leviticus 26:1 *You shall make for yourselves no idols nor shall you erect a graven image, pillar, or obelisk, nor shall you place any figured stone in your land to which or on which to bow down; for I am the Lord your God.*

- How utterly despicable it is that anyone would look to an object pray! It is blasphemy! It belittles God! It is an awful thing! There is no biblical reasoning or excuse for anyone, any religion, any denomination to pray to an idol, object or image! It is sinful, rebellious and blasphemous!

- By the same token it is so incredibly foolish today that anything of this world could take the place of Jesus Christ. We may not call them God's but we will worship football more than we worship our Saviour; We will worship our self-time more than communion with The Creator God; We will serve our own logic and self-interest before we submit to the Word of God! This is idolatry and it is wickedness! It is abhorrent and so completely stupid!

“But the Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth hush and keep silence before Him.”

- We are His temple now. The Lord dwells in and amongst His people. We take this for granted and far too lightly. Believers today really ought to give so much more thought to the glory and majesty of The Lord God! It is the creator God who dwells within us. It is the one, true, living God that abides in His people. If we truly had faith our lives would reflect this incredible truth.

- *1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*

- *Ephesians 2:21-22 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, [22] in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.*

- This verse can also be taken in the sense that The Lord sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, He is holy and set apart from creation. He sits and watches and judges over all that is done. He sees the sin, the foolishness, the wicked imaginations... He is not unaware or ignorant. Let the earth keep silent before Him in fear and reverence of His righteousness, purity and holiness. Oh, let the world tremble at the transparency of their shame before their creator! May God's people come to an understanding of His power, might and holiness.