

Mar 15, 2020



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

God hears our burdens. We must continue to cast them on the Lord because He cares for us

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Lord, thank You for bearing my burdens. I know that You hear my cries and will answer in accordance to Your perfect plan and purposes

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

O Lord, how long shall I cry, And You will not hear? Even cry out to You, "Violence!" And You will not save

(Hab 1:2 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Oct 07, 2017)

**Series: Justice and the
Prophets**

UNIT: God Requires Justice

NEXT WEEK

**An Argument Against
Corruption**
(Micah 3:1-3,9-12; 6:6-8)

Consequences for Injustice Habakkuk 2:6-14

Lesson Background and Introduction

The destruction of all that Judah had amassed took several years to accomplish. However, when God had finished with His discipline of the people, the old Judah was just as surely gone. Today's lesson is taken once again from the writings of the prophet Habakkuk. Habakkuk 2 begins with Habakkuk's description of himself standing watch on a tower to wait for the Lord's response to his objections (Habakkuk 2:1). The Lord tells Habakkuk to record on tablets the "vision" he is about to receive so that a messenger can deliver it (2:2). What Gone with the Wind so dramatically portrayed about the 1864 burning of Atlanta is what Habakkuk said awaited the Chaldeans. All their possessions would be fuel for the fire (Habakkuk 2:13). This is in fact the future that awaits the entire world (again, 2 Peter 3:10). Today's lesson reminds us that the Lord will make certain that justice is carried out against evildoers. "Justice for all" is very easy to say and desire. But putting hands and feet to this desire is quite another matter. Cries for justice echo throughout every society. Acts of violence against individuals or groups are followed by demands that justice be served and those responsible for the violence be punished. Systems that methodically keep people in positions to be mistreated are protested because they perpetuate injustice—sometimes on a massive scale. The whole world longs for justice. Today's study from Habakkuk, along with the testimony of Scripture as a whole, assures us that God will right all wrongs committed by human beings. Sinners may escape the punishment required by human law, but they cannot dodge Heaven's law so cleverly.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

No Overlooking Sin - God used Babylon, a cruel, ungodly nation, to bring judgment upon His people in Judah. However, God also had something in mind for the wickedness of Babylon. Habakkuk listed "woes" coming upon this population for their sin. It is an important reminder—God refuses to overlook sinful behavior. Being motivated and ambitious is an excellent characteristic to possess. However, if your drive leads to greed, selfishness, or abuse, that's not good. The Babylonians viciously took land and possessions that belonged to other countries and built their empire. The citizens of the captured countries suffered violence and murder. The survivors endured extreme ill-treatment and slavery. Habakkuk anxiously asked the Lord, how long before the Babylonians are punished? For a time, the Babylonians stood strong. All those watching this nation overthrow country after country started to wonder, are they unstoppable? But the Lord brought them to a halt. He raised the Medes and Persians to overpower the Babylonians. The arrogant Babylonians became the victims, reaping the consequences of their atrocious actions.

Woe to Those Who Exalt Themselves and Mistreat Others - The Babylonians pridefully thought they were invincible. They built their empire on the backs of slaves and exploited the people in the nations they conquered. God would not tolerate their injustices forever. Cities built by the hands of the oppressed will perish. Habakkuk reminded God's people there is a kingdom coming, not built by human hands but by God- Its foundation is righteousness, and it will never be destroyed. Those mistreating others like the Babylonians did need to pay attention. A nation or individuals can be on top, bragging about accomplishments, but God can instantly bring it all to an end. God will not be mocked. Whatever a man sows, a reaping time eventually comes.

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Woe about Stealing (Hab 2:6-8)

Stealing through dishonesty (6)

Instead of stealing, work so there can be sharing (Eph 4:28)

Love versus being dishonest (Rom 13:8-10)

God hates dishonesty (Zech 8:16-17)

Never take advantage through dishonest gain (Titus 1:10-11)

Stealing that brings same measure of consequences (7-8)

Consequences that match the treatment we give to others (Luke 6:31)

Consequences that match the judgment we make of others (Matt 7:2)

Consequences that bring matching condemnation (Rom 2:1)

Consequences that come from stubbornness and an unrepentant heart (Rom 2:5)

Woe about Coveting (Hab 2:9-11)

Coveting evil gain (9)

Evil gain that may mean the forfeiting of our soul (Mark 8:36-37)

Evil gain through the teaching of false doctrine (1 Tim 6:3-5)

Evil gain through dishonesty (Titus 1:11)

Evil gain through love of possessions and money (Matt 6:24)

Evil gain that leads to the wandering from the faith (1 Tim 6:10)

Coveting that brings disaster to the home (10-11)

Disaster to the home because of the sins of forefathers (Isa 14:21)

Disaster to the home because of not listening to God (Jer 36:31)

Disaster to the home through the punishment of lack of prospering (Jer 22:30)

Disaster to the home because of bringing trouble to our family (Prov 11:29)

Disaster to the home because of cutting off the family (Jer 44:7)

Woe about Iniquity (Hab 2:12-14)

Iniquity of violence (12)

Violence of the wicked (Ps 7:9)

Violence that recoils (Ps 7:16)

Violence through refusing to do what is right (Prov 21:7)

Violence plotted in the heart (Prov 24:1-2)

Iniquity that brings God's judgment (13-14)

God's judgment because of callous hearts (Ps 73:7)

God's judgment that brings punishment with rods (Ps 89:32)

God's judgment because of rebellion (Ps 107:17)

God's judgment of secret sins (Ps 90:8-9)