

# Living by Faith in Suffering - Habakkuk

[Habakkuk 2:4-20](#)

“Walking by Faith” – January 17, 2021



## Introduction

Habakkuk is wrestling with the sin *among* God's people and God's plan of using wicked Babylon for a reproof. To help, God shows Habakkuk a glimpse of the future – showing him the end of the proud Babylonians. What difference does knowing the end make on how we live today?

## Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

## Read & Discuss

Read [2:4-5](#)

There are only two ways to live. We either trust God or we don't. The proud assume they don't *need* to trust God and are self-sufficient. They're blind to the discontentment that comes when we expect God's gifts to fill a heart only God can. The powerful proud may assume they're untouchable, but when God pulls back the curtain on the future to show them their funeral (in which the 'woe' becomes a mockery), the prophet sees the truth. The proud may assume they have control and are untouchable, but no one is above accountability. God will make all things right in the end.

**Woe #1:** [Read 2:6-8](#) – Greed

One day the tables will turn. The Plunderer will become the plundered. What good does it do for the faithful to know that the proud will see their just end one day? It helps us guard our hearts from falling prey to the “Atheism of Force” – to deify or idolize powerful people or nations such that we live as if it's the only power that *really* exists – the only strength that matters. We can *know* God's powerful, but when the proud seem unstoppable do you struggle to believe and rest in the God who runs the show? Are there ways we pick up the tools of the proud (believing that's where strength rests) and look to money, clothes, houses, or neighborhoods to satisfy, define us or determine our value rather than God?

**Woe #2:** [Read 2:9-11](#) – Security

We see the proud gain by their evil ways for their own homes in order to be safe from the reach of harm. Practically speaking, money can buy some sense of security. Yet, money is a mirage of security without God ([Prov. 18:11](#)). Are there things you are trusting in (instead of God) to keep out of the reach of harm? How has this past year's election affected your heart and its sense of security? As Christians we need to remember that no matter who is in office, God is on His throne. God is our source of security forever.

**Woe #3:** Read [2:12-14](#) – Glory

The proud (like the wicked) is willing to disadvantage others to advantage themselves. They may build an impressive empire and seem untouchable, but woe to them. The earth will not be filled with the knowledge of the glory of man, but of the glory of God. Have you ever asked yourself why you do the things you do? Could it be that you're seeking to make a name for yourself rather than making a name for God? Are there ways that you have been willing to disadvantage others by gossip, cold indifference, or selfishness in order to advantage yourself? God will not share His glory with another ([Isa. 42:8](#)).

**Woe #4:** Read [2:15-17](#) – Escape

The proud looks to escape from that nagging sense of emptiness or discontent rather than come to God. What's more, pride often seeks to bring others with them to cover over shame. In this world today there are many ways for us to attempt to escape the pain of the moment. Getting others to join in sin with us makes us feel better about where we are. However, this woe warns us that the only cup that the proud here will be drinking is the cup of God's righteous wrath. Do you find yourself running to something for escape rather than God? Do you involve others in your sin or escape to make yourself feel better about what you are doing that displeases the Lord? Our only satisfaction and hope is found in God.

**Woe #5:** Read [2:18-20](#) – Idolatry

This woe of idolatry sums up all of the other four woes. Idolatry is trusting something other than God. The Babylonians were trusting their own might as their god ([1:11](#)). Anything we trust in other than God is a teacher of lies (vs. [18](#)). It's possible to dress up idolatry with religion so that it goes undetected in our lives. It's important we humbly ask the Lord's help to detect these and to open up our lives to godly friends and family to help us fight for faith for every idol we run to is a dead end. As Christians, it could be that our idolatry is a part of a fear that God does not seem to be doing anything about the world around us. Look back over human history and see that this great might many people and nations have held eventually fails. God never fails. His church marches on. He will return and make all things new.

**Prayer of Response**

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

**\*Next week's sermon text:** we turn to [Habakkuk 3:1-19](#) "Rejoicing in the Lord"