

**HABAKKUK SERIES #4:
The Fat Lady Ain't Sung Yet
Habakkuk 2:1-4
Grace Community Church
Kingston, Tennessee
Sunday, September 15, 2019**

1. **TEXT:** Hab. 2:1-4, (1) I will stand my watch And set myself on the rampart, And watch to see what He will say to me, And what I will answer when I am corrected. (2) Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision And make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it. (3) For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry. (4) "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith.

2. **INTRODUCTION:**
 - a. **EX:** Derivation of expression, "The fat lady ain't sung yet."

 - b. **REVIEW:**
 - i. Hab. 1:1-4:
 1. Records the prayer of Habakkuk for God to intervene and rectify the terrible state of his nation Judah. But God did not do so.
 2. Habakkuk was perplexed as to why God would not answer his prayer.

 - ii. Hab. 1:5-11, God told Habakkuk to contemplate what the Babylonians were doing to the nations around Judah and that a similar fate awaited Judah. The godless were going to triumph over the godly.

 - iii. Hab. 1:12 Habakkuk "reminds" God that the Jews were His elect children and that it was the Babylonians who were appointed to judgment, not the Jews.

 - iv. Hab. 1:13, Habakkuk "rehearses" the character of God. He was telling God that what He was allowing to happen was not in keeping with His holy character.

 - c. Hab. 2 contains the response of God to Habakkuk's rebuke in chapter 1.

3. **HAB 2:1, "I WILL STAND MY WATCH AND SET MYSELF ON THE RAMPART, AND WATCH TO SEE WHAT HE WILL SAY TO ME, AND WHAT I WILL ANSWER WHEN I AM CORRECTED."**
 - a. **"I WILL STAND UPON MY WATCH":** Habakkuk was picturing himself as a "watchman."

- b. HAB 2:1, "I WILL ... SET MYSELF ON THE RAMPART ...," the RAMPART was a high place, usually on the wall of the city.
4. HAB 2:2, "THEN THE LORD ANSWERED ME AND SAID: "WRITE THE VISION AND MAKE [IT] PLAIN ON TABLETS, THAT HE MAY RUN WHO READS IT."
- a. God told Habakkuk to WRITE down the VISION he was about receive, and to write it in big letters.
- b. EX: size of lettering on signs is determined according to speed limit.
5. HAB 2:3, "FOR THE VISION [IS] YET FOR AN APPOINTED TIME; BUT AT THE END IT WILL SPEAK, AND IT WILL NOT LIE. THOUGH IT TARRIES, WAIT FOR IT; BECAUSE IT WILL SURELY COME, IT WILL NOT TARRY."
- a. The vision Habakkuk was about to receive was for an appointed time in the future.
- b. The IT in this verse should be translated as HE. It is a reference to the coming of Christ.
6. HAB. 2:4 "BEHOLD THE PROUD, HIS SOUL IS NOT UPRIGHT IN HIM; BUT THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY HIS FAITH.
7. HAB. 2:5-12, (5) "Indeed, because he [i.e., the leader of the Chaldeans] transgresses by wine, He is a proud man, And he does not stay at home. Because he enlarges his desire as hell, And he is like death, and cannot be satisfied, He gathers to himself all nations And heaps up for himself all peoples. (6) "Will not all these take up a proverb against him, And a taunting riddle against him, and say, 'Woe to him who increases What is not his—how long? And to him who loads himself with many pledges'? (7) Will not your creditors rise up suddenly? Will they not awaken who oppress you? And you will become their booty. (8) Because you have plundered many nations, All the remnant of the people shall plunder you, Because of men's blood And the violence of the land and the city, And of all who dwell in it. (9) "Woe to him who covets evil gain for his house, That he may set his nest on high, That he may be delivered from the power of disaster! (10) You give shameful counsel to your house, Cutting off many peoples, And sin against your soul. (11) For the stone will cry out from the wall, And the beam from the timbers will answer it. (12) "Woe to him who builds a town with bloodshed, Who establishes a city by iniquity!
- a. In these verses, God acknowledged the wickedness of the Babylonians and declared that they would be destroyed by their own evil.
- b. God's timetable is not according to our timetable: 2 Pt. 3:8, "... with the Lord one day [is] as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."
- c. It seemed to Habakkuk that the Babylonians were prospering in their godlessness and God was unconcerned about it.

- d. God told Habakkuk that the Babylonians would one day be judged for their sins, but that in the meantime, believers needed to live by faith (Hab. 2:4)
 - e. **FAITH DEFINED:** Heb 11:1, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”
 - i. **“SUBSTANCE”**
 - 1. SUB=under; STANCE=stand;
 - 2. FAITH is something UNDERNEATH you upon which you can STAND
 - ii. **“EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN”**
 - 1. EVIDENCE is proof.
 - 2. FAITH is proof that there is something beyond the capabilities of the eyes of flesh to see.
 - f. In other words, God is telling Habakkuk that, during those dark days, he and his people would have to live their lives based upon their belief in the person of God, even though it might appear to the eyes of flesh those things were not so.
- 8. HAB. 2:14, “FOR THE EARTH WILL BE FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GLORY OF THE LORD, AS THE WATERS COVER THE SEA.”**
- a. God was telling Habakkuk to look beyond his present concerns to the End of Time when righteousness will rule instead of godlessness.
 - b. Jesus referred to this Day in Mt. 25:31, “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.”
 - c. When God tells Habakkuk that the earth will be filled with the KNOWLEDGE of the glory of Christ, He is talking about EXPERIENTIAL knowledge.
 - i. Rev. 21:23, “The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.”
 - d. Hab. 2:14 is referring to the time when Christ will come in the brightness of His person and set up His Kingdom on earth and establish justice.
 - e. 2 Thes. 2:8, “And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.”

- f. **God is telling Habakkuk, do not look around you now at how things are, but look ahead at how things will be.**

9. God's words to Habakkuk are also His words to us today

- a. **Like in Habakkuk's day, our world is becoming more and more ungodly with each passing day.**
- b. **Scripture says of this present world:**
 - i. **Prov. 14:9, "Fools mock at sin...."**
 - ii. **Rm. 3:18, "There is no fear of God before their eyes."**
- c. **We are presently living in some of the darkest days of American history.**
- d. **As God told Habakkuk how to survive in his days, we too should look with the eyes of faith, beyond our present circumstances to the end of all things, when Christ Jesus will rule and reign and make all things right.**