

Sermon Summary: “When the House of Cards Falls”

Habakkuk 2:6–20

In this part of the Bible, the prophet Habakkuk is waiting for an answer from God. He has asked God a hard question: Why do evil people seem to win? Why is the powerful and violent nation of Babylon allowed to grow stronger and hurt others?

God has already answered by pointing to his own character — he is good, even when bad things happen, he is sovereign (in complete control) even when evil empires rise, and he is holy and sees what they do.

But this is not enough for Habakkuk, and his question is really “what will you do about it?”

God answers with five strong warnings, called “woes,” against Babylon. These warnings show that God is not blind to what is happening. He sees every act of greed, every injustice, every moment of pride. Even when it looks like evil people are winning, God promises that justice will come. One day, all the wrong things will be made right.

God Sees and Judges Greed (Habakkuk 2:6–11)

In the first part of the passage, God speaks against greed.

Babylon became rich by stealing from others and treating people unfairly. They took what was not theirs and built their kingdom through lies and oppression.

But God says this will not last.

Even very buildings they built with stolen money will cry out against them in God’s court. God sees everything. And He will judge. This is not just a message for Babylon—it is also a message for us.

Greed and pride can live in our hearts too. But the good news is that Jesus offers us forgiveness and a new foundation. He invites us to build our lives on truth, justice, and grace.

2. God Judges Violence and Shame (Habakkuk 2:12–17)

In the second part, God speaks against violence and shame.

Babylon hurt people and built their cities on bloodshed. They used their power to humiliate others.

But God says their glory will turn into shame.

They will drink from the cup of His anger—the same shame they gave to others will come back to them. This might sound scary, but it also points us to Jesus.

Before His death, Jesus prayed in the garden, “Let this cup pass from me.” He was talking about this cup—the cup of God’s wrath.

Jesus took that cup for us. On the cross, He took our shame, our guilt, and our punishment. Because of Him, we are safe. And now, we are called to treat others with love and respect, not with harm or humiliation.

3. God Destroys Idols and Reveals His Glory (Habakkuk 2:18–20)

Finally, God speaks against idolatry.

Babylon worshiped idols—statues made of wood and stone.

These idols could not see, hear, or save anyone. But the true God is alive. He is holy, powerful, and present. He says, “The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him.”

We all have idols — things we put before God, and places where we allow other things to take his place. The root of all sin is idolatry — thinking our own way is better than God’s.

But all human pride, all boasting, all noise must stop in His presence.

In Jesus, this holy God came close to us. He walked among us. And on the cross, He became silent—He did not defend Himself—so that our voices of guilt could be silenced too.

Now, through Him, we are invited to enter God's presence with peace and joy.

So, what does all of this mean for us today?

It means that the kingdoms of this world will fall. Power built on greed, violence, and idols cannot last.

But the kingdom of God will last forever. Jesus invites us to stop trusting in false hopes and start building our lives on Him.

He is the only foundation that will never be shaken. He sees, He knows, He reigns—and He saves.

Key Verse:

“The LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.” — Habakkuk 2:20