Habakkuk 2v2-20 - Wait

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We left Habakkuk on the ramparts seeking answers to his questions and bewilderment - he is deeply perplexed, but standing on the certainties of who God is.

(1) Wait (2:1-5)

2v1 After his blunt honesty in prayer in chapter 1 - how would you describe his attitude and actions in verse 1?

Jonathan Lamb, in his book on Habakkuk called 'From Why to Worship', highlights two poles of prayer from Habakkuk's example - raw honesty on the one hand, and humble expectancy on the other - which of those come most easily to you? Which is more tricky? Why?

Read 2v3-5 - In the Lord's answer what important things does he say about the vision - what he'd promised to do? How would that have reassured Habakkuk? How does it reassure us?

2v4-5 - What contrasts are there here between the ungodly and the 'righteous' person? What are they characterised by?

Why do you think Jesus opened the Sermon on the Mount with the simple beatitude, "Blessed are those who know their need of God"? What does that attitude look like in real life?"

2v4 - This verse from Habakkuk is quoted in Romans 1:14-17, Gal 3:1-14, Hebrews 10:35-11:2 - how does the NT passage use Habakkuk's theme?

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(2) Woe! (2:6-20)

Judgement is coming on His own people, on the Babylonians - and then onwards and onwards throughout history...

For each of these - try to put in your own words/summarise - and think though how might we be tempted to get caught up in these sins, and what can we do to help protect ourselves/families/church family?

Eg - Where's our true security? Insurance schemes? Pensions? Savings and investments? Education? How can we live with a true dependence on the security of Christ and his word when we have so many material things that support us?

You can also think through at wider cultural level too - eg what do the verses say to big businesses making money from exploiting the weak?

1. Woe against Selfish Ambition (2:6–8)
2. Woe against False Security (2:9–11)
3. Woe against Ruthless Power (2:12, 13, 17)
4. Woe against Shameless Exploitation (2:15–17)
5. Woe against Foolish Idolatry (2:18–20)

(3.) Wow!

Read verse 20 and verse 14 - what truths do they tell us about the Lord and his rule? How is it encouraging for us?

There is no doubt that Habakkuk's vision of the earth filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord is profoundly moving. But why do we reflect on this so rarely? In what ways can we keep this vision more prominent in our hearts and minds and in our Christian community?