

Habakkuk 2:4-20

2:4 in Hebrew = "the righteous will live by his faithfulness"

Habakkuk asks God "Why do you tolerate evil and injustice?"

God answers "This version of it (Babylon who I am using to punish your evil and injustice) will only last 70 years and then I will destroy them. You remain faithful in the meantime, trust Me, I am here with you the whole time."

God brings 5 indictments against Babylon and these have taunts baked into the words.
There is also Lament = prayers of grief, sorrow, confusion, distress, and hope = Psalm 10

"Look at the proud! They trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked. But the righteous will live by their faithfulness to God.⁵ Wealth is treacherous, and the arrogant are never at rest. They open their mouths as wide as the grave, and like death, they are never satisfied. In their greed they have gathered up many nations and swallowed many peoples.⁶ "But soon their captives will taunt them. They will mock them, saying, 'What sorrow awaits you thieves! Now you will get what you deserve! You've become rich by extortion, but how much longer can this go on?'⁷ Suddenly, your debtors will take action. They will turn on you and take all you have, while you stand trembling and helpless.⁸ Because you have plundered many nations, now all the survivors will plunder you. You committed murder throughout the countryside and filled the towns with violence.⁹ "What sorrow awaits you who build big houses with money gained dishonestly! You believe your wealth will buy security, putting your family's nest beyond the reach of danger.¹⁰ But by the murders you committed, you have shamed your name and forfeited your lives.¹¹ The very stones in the walls cry out against you, and the beams in the ceilings echo the complaint.¹² "What sorrow awaits you who build cities with money gained through murder and corruption!¹³ Has not the Lord of Heaven's Armies promised that the wealth of nations will turn to ashes? They work so hard, but all in vain!¹⁴ For as the waters fill the sea, the earth will be filled with an awareness of the glory of the Lord.¹⁵ "What sorrow awaits you who make your neighbors drunk! You force your cup on them so you can gloat over their shameful nakedness.¹⁶ But soon it will be your turn to be disgraced. Come, drink and be exposed! Drink from the cup of the Lord's judgment, and all your glory will be turned to shame.¹⁷ You cut down the forests of Lebanon. Now you will be cut down. You destroyed the wild animals, so now their terror will be yours. You committed murder throughout the countryside and filled the towns with violence.¹⁸ "What good is an idol carved by man, or a cast image that deceives you? How foolish to trust in your own creation—a god that can't even talk!¹⁹ What sorrow awaits you who say to wooden idols, Wake up and save us! To speechless stone images you say, Rise up and teach us! Can an idol tell you what to do? They may be overlaid with gold and silver, but they are lifeless inside.²⁰ But the Lord is in his holy Temple. Let all the earth be silent before him."

The first woe 2:6-8 *the plunderers will themselves be plundered in turn*
sinful arrogance/selfish ambition fosters an unholy desire for more, greed takes and wastes

Babylon's arrogant ways create three kinds of victims: environment, people, societies.

The second woe 2:9-11 *those who take wealth shamefully, will be shamed themselves*
Forfeiting = Hebrew word for sin, the words in verse 9-10 all have an "S" sound so they make a hissing taunt when read aloud.

The third woe 2:12-14 *those who reject God will be rejected*

The way of the wicked is to glorify themselves and the idols they worship which is actually rejection and scorn of the living God who alone deserves worship and honor.

Verse 14 = Glory is the manifested magnificence of God

Isaiah 11:9 "the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as waters cover the sea."

The Glory of the Lord

Fills the Tabernacle	Exodus 40
Fills the Temple	1Kings 8
Fill the Sky at Christ's birth	Luke 2
Fills the Church	2Cornithians 3
Fills Creation at Christ return	Philippians 2:9-11

The fourth woe 2:15-18 *the disgrace of abuse will be put on the abusers*

God raised up the Babylonian empire to play a part in His redemptive history, but this fact was lost on them and rather than give recognition to God, they used their privileged power to take advantage of the weak, this is what evil nations (Babylon or beasts) do.

The violence done to people is expanded to include the deforestation of land, and destruction of wildlife, the land was made naked, God's creation was assaulted/shamed, He is making a woe of it.

Jonah 4:11/ Proverbs 12:10/Psalms 104:21/Job12:7-10/Luke 2:6-7/Mark 4:12-13

The fifth woe 2:18-20 *faith in worthless things reveals spiritual isolation from God*

Babylon is an historical nation and a biblical type for the beast or all ungodly nations, all who oppose God, basically all who choose to trust in their own strength rather than admit dependence on God.