

**The Christian's Warning:  
Woe To The Wicked!**

**Habakkuk 2:6-20**

**5 warnings against wickedness...**

**1. A warning against selfish ambition.**

**Woe:** a word of judgment from God.

Each woe contains a ruling (issued from God himself), a reversal of fortune (determined by God himself), and a reason for the judgment.

**A. The ruling: Woe to the thief and the liar!**

**Habakkuk 2:6** | <sup>6</sup> Shall not all these take up their taunt against him, with scoffing and riddles for him, and say, "Woe to him who heaps up what is not his own—for how long?—and loads himself with pledges!"

**B. The reversal: Your debts will come due!**

**Habakkuk 2:7** | <sup>7</sup> Will not your debtors suddenly arise, and those awake who will make you tremble? Then you will be spoil for them.

**C. The reason: Your selfish ambition!**

**Habakkuk 2:8** | <sup>8</sup> Because you have plundered many nations, all the remnant of the peoples shall plunder you, for the blood of man and violence to the earth, to cities and all who dwell in them.

**2. A warning against covetousness.**

**A. The reason: Woe to the envious!**

**Habakkuk 2:9** | <sup>9</sup> "Woe to him who gets evil gain for his house, to set his nest on high, to be safe from the reach of harm!"

**B. The reversal: Your envy will cost you everything!**

**Habakkuk 2:10** | <sup>10</sup> You have devised shame for your house by cutting off many peoples; you have forfeited your life.

**C. The reason: Your sin cries out against you!**

**Habakkuk 2:11** | <sup>11</sup> For the stone will cry out from the wall, and the beam from the woodwork respond.

**3. A warning against exploitation.**

**A. The ruling: Woe to those willing to shed blood for personal gain!**

**Habakkuk 2:12** | <sup>12</sup> “Woe to him who builds a town with blood and founds a city on iniquity!

**B. The reversal: All you built will become fuel for the fires!**

**Habakkuk 2:13** | <sup>13</sup> Behold, is it not from the Lord of hosts that peoples labor merely for fire, and nations weary themselves for nothing?

**C. The reason: the earth was made for God’s glory, not man’s!**

**Habakkuk 2:14** | <sup>14</sup> For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

**4. A warning against manipulation.**

**A. The ruling: Woe to those who manipulate others to take advantage of them!**

**Habakkuk 2:15** | <sup>15</sup> “Woe to him who makes his neighbors drink—you pour out your wrath and make them drunk, in order to gaze at their nakedness!

**B. The reversal: Instead of glory, they will receive shame!**

**Habakkuk 2:16** | <sup>16</sup> You will have your fill of shame instead of glory. Drink, yourself, and show your uncircumcision! The cup in the Lord's

right hand will come around to you, and utter shame will come upon your glory!

**C. The reason: Wanton disregard for human life and violence against the earth!**

**Habakkuk 2:17** | <sup>17</sup> The violence done to Lebanon will overwhelm you, as will the destruction of the beasts that terrified them, for the blood of man and violence to the earth, to cities and all who dwell in them.

**5. A warning against idolatry.**

**A. The ruling: Judgment comes to those who practice idolatry!**

**Habakkuk 2:19** | <sup>19</sup> Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake; to a silent stone, Arise! Can this teach? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in it.

**B. The reversal: Idols are dead, but God is alive!**

**Habakkuk 2:20** | <sup>20</sup> But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.”

**C. The reason: Trusting in anything other than God is idolatry.**

**Habakkuk 2:18** | <sup>18</sup> “What profit is an idol when its maker has shaped it, a metal image, a teacher of lies? For its maker trusts in his own creation when he makes speechless idols!