

Habakkuk 2:15-17

Judgment on Babylon

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15 "Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbors,
pouring it from the wineskin till they are drunk,
so that he can gaze on their naked bodies.

16 You will be filled with shame instead of glory.

Now it is your turn! Drink and be exposed [a]!

The cup from the LORD's right hand is coming around to you,
and disgrace will cover your glory.

17 The violence you have done to Lebanon will overwhelm you,
and your destruction of animals will terrify you.

For you have shed man's blood;
you have destroyed lands and cities and everyone in them.

Key notes for each verse.

Verse 15

This is past drinking, this is using alcohol as a tool to hurt someone else, to elevate yourself by deception and cruelty.

The Babylonians would rape and defile countries in every sense of the word. This is why God judged them as He did.

Verse 16

The cup of wrath is seen through out scripture through the major and minor prophets and even Christ said that He would drink of it, during His ministry and journey to the Cross.

God is and forever will be just. God promises this.

Psalm 111:7-10 (New International Version)

7 The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.

8 They are steadfast for ever and ever,
done in faithfulness and uprightness.

9 He provided redemption for his people;
he ordained his covenant forever—
holy and awesome is his name.

10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who follow his precepts have good understanding.
To him belongs eternal praise.

Where here Precepts mean divine commands or decrees.

Verse 17

All of our actions make us who we are, there's nothing that we do that will not impact us and everyone around us. That's why last week's lesson on integrity was so important, when we seek, kill and destroy with our thoughts, our words and our actions, we bring judgment on ourselves. We bring just as much pain to ourselves because all of that wrong cuts deep into us as well even if we don't notice it today.

WE all have been Judged, and its more that we could have every hoped for.

John 3:16-17 (New International Version)

16"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,[a] that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Romans 8:1 (New International Version)

1Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, [a]

Despite all that we have done, all of the hurt that we have caused, and even for the things we have neglected to do. God loved us so much that He forgave us. Jesus Christ paid the price for our judgment. That's why we sing the Hymn Jesus paid it all. Jesus paid the price for our salvation to reconcile us with God AND for our judgment. Christ paid the price for freedom, He and He alone frees us from death, from sin and from judgment.

I am going to talk about how Christ breaks the chains that bind us, and I have a nice think chain. But I am not going to break it, for the sole reason that me breaking the chain in front of everybody won't change anything, my chain is metal and can be broken by physical means but the chains on our hearts are not, they can only be broken through Christ. And then I am going to pray for God to break the chains of sin, to forgive us, and to break the chains of judgment from ourselves and other people as well. And then break into small groups.