

## 12 Prophets - Habakkuk Part 6

*“Prophets distilled the 613 mitzvot into a list of primary commandments.....”*

*Chavakuk came and established the mitzvot on a single one:*

*A righteous person shall live by his faith” (Chavakuk 2:4)*

*“Woe to him who makes his neighbors drink— you pour out your wrath and make them drunk, in order to gaze at their nakedness!*

*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!*

*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.*

*(Habakkuk 2:15-17)*

As we look at this next woe, we see a connection to the previous one and allusion to events that took place early on after the restoration of the earth post flood.

A great deal of what we are being told in these passages relates to things we can learn at the flood. The restoration point established there was short lived. The actions of Ham in uncovering the nakedness of his father Noach are alluded to here. It perhaps explains the severity of the curse placed upon Canaan.

: קריה בעולה	עיר בדמים וכוונן	הוי בנה	2:12
in-iniquity town	and-he- <sup>m</sup> establishes in-bloods	city one-building	woe !
H5766 H7151	H3559 H1818 H5892	H1129 H1945	

Embedded in the word “establishes” from the previous verse is the name Canaan. If Ham had not revealed his father’s nakedness, then Canaan would not be subject to the curse that gets carried forward. The revealing of nakedness is taken seriously in the scripture as we have looked at before, but it goes much further than just the physical. This is also speaking to “lashon hora” which reveals a form of nakedness of the soul. What is also clear is that establishing falsehood has serious consequences.

The connection that we make with Canaan may seem a bit obscure to some, but we look to how the name of Canaan was associated with being a merchant/trader. What is “established” through malicious speech and falsehood can often become the foundation of something. We see this depicted in film and literature that families/companies/cities that are founded on falsehood will eventually come tumbling down when they are exposed to the light of the truth. (2 Cor 12:20, Rom 1:29, Pro 16:28)

Canaan as a land was filled with idolatry that encouraged death cults and sexual immorality in the guise of religious worship to idols made by hands. A land established on these falsehoods cannot stand against the truth of the One True Creator GOD.

These principles then carry forward into the “woe” that is spoken in verses 15-17.

As we have already stated, in the context of Noach, the revealed nakedness of the patriarch, although induced through drunkenness is not the high point of the newly restored world, the merchandising of gossip by Ham is “established” as a far worse offence as Noach proclaims a curse upon his son Canaan.

- "Woe to him who makes his neighbours drink— you pour out your wrath and make them drunk, in order to gaze at their nakedness!

As we break down the sections of the lament. We must remember that the voice speaking is the voice of the Holy One, so the opening of this stanza is directed toward the offender.

How do you make your neighbours drink?

This is really speaking of a form of enticement in order to take advantage. The drunkenness that will come upon the surrounding nations will be based upon the success of the conquering kingdom. The desire for money, sex, and power infiltrates all levels of society, from the greatest to the smallest. Unfortunately, today, there is a mood within the hierarchy of elites to look upon the masses and to enjoy the "fight" for success. There is an amused disdain from the arrogant as they look down from their lofty nests of power. This was evident in Soviet Russia and can be seen in many examples today where regimes oversee the populace not with benevolence borne out of responsibility and stewardship, but greed and malevolence established in an overarching desire to maintain a grip on power for as long as possible.

But even as we see in parsha Mishpatim, the importance of how we see each other is key and there is no place for partisanship or sectarianism where we create separations between people in order to maintain power over others. The emphasis of the warning in this lament should be taken seriously as the consequences of these bad actions will come upon those who instigated them.

- 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!
- 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.

These three lines open up the results of the actions carried out by the wicked offender. But perhaps we can ask once again: Why have the actions come to pass?

The answer is found in another of the 12 prophets.

*And I am exceedingly angry with the nations that are at ease; for while I was angry but a little, they furthered the disaster.*

#### Zechariah 1:15

The verse in Zechariah is part of the vision of the horseman, who are commanded by the Holy One to survey the earth and what is taking place. The world is at ease with the destruction of Jerusalem. This is a problem. This is the nature of partisanship, particularly when joined with religious thought, as it can lead to the belief that the "judgment" that has come upon the people is ordained by GOD because of their sin. This may be true, or not; think about Job and his "comforters". What is wrong is when that partisanship, rather than seeking to bring relief to those who are in difficulty, chooses to augment the suffering and even take advantage of it.

Perhaps take a moment to consider these.

What is clear from the passage in Habakkuk is that the principal of "measure for measure" is being set out as we look at the language, but it is not something that is being forced upon the those who would "drink from the cup"; they are already willing participants and have become "drunk" on their own "success".

*The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD's throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man. The LORD tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence. Let him rain coals on the wicked; fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup.*

#### Psalms 11:4-6

*For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup with foaming wine, well mixed, and he pours out from it, and all the wicked of the earth shall drain it down to the dregs.*

#### Psalms 75:8

See also: Jeremiah 25:15-38, Daniel 5, 1 Cor 10:16-21, 11:27-28, Rev 14:10, 16:19, 17:4

Jeremiah 25 is particularly interesting as in literal terms the prophet did not physically speak to the nations mentioned, but one might speculate that the message of Jeremiah and Isaiah will be carried to the nations.

*"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! 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. But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him."*

[Habakkuk 2:18-20](#)

*You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?*

[1 Corinthians 10:21-22](#)