

BABYLON

by Bob Ayala

There sits the King of Babylon
 Upon his ancient throne
 There's blood stains on his priestly
 robe
 He's made the earth his home

There sits the King of Babylon
 Who can make the image speak
 Like the serpent in the garden
 Yes he's older than you think

Won't someone please carry me away
 from Babylon
 Far away, far away

There sits the King of Babylon
 On his silver and his gold
 And he sends his armies like a flood
 Upon his enemy of old

There sits the King of Babylon
 With many crowns upon his head
 And he's built his house upon the gates
 Of the fires of the dead

Lie, lie, lie, lie, lie, lie, lie, lie,
 lie, lie
 The father of lies

Won't someone please carry me away
 from Babylon
 Far away, far away

Weep all ye merchants upon your
 ships
 Your city has fallen
 she's losing her grip

There sits the King of Heaven
 There's fire in His eyes
 And He's come to take possession
 Of the world for which He died

There sits the Lord of Glory
 Upon a horse He rides
 And He's come to bind the fallen one
 Who fell upon his pride

Hosannah, Hosannah in the highest
 Even so come quickly Lord Jesus
 Even so come quickly Lord God
 Praise His Name Yeshua Ha Machiah
 Praise His Name Jesus the Messiah

35-02-01 --The Woes of the Wicked
 judgment, Babylon, Satan, lusts
 Hab.2:1-20

By faith believers will live; by pride Babylon will fall.

INTRODUCTION:

--Chap.1's TITLE; Chap.2's TITLE; where we left off, **v.1**
 --A **wise man** asks "why," watching expectantly for an answer.
 --A **seer** has eyes of faith that "look to see" the picture God paints.
 --A **prophet** knows God's reply will end up on his own lips.
 --God's revelations are for more than ourselves, **v.2**
 --Write it for the future: OT prophecies (primary & secondary =
 literal Babylon & spiritual Babylon)
 --the idea of Chap.2: "What is God's answer?" Ultimately God will
 bring the reign of Babylon to an end.
 --What are we to learn from this: **HOM.idea**.

I. Contrasting two kingdoms, v.4 (God's & spiritual Babylon)

- A. The powerful reign of two **opposite desires**:
 1. The **ungodly seek to rule** in a kingdom where **self is sovereign**.
 2. The **godly seek to serve** in the Kingdom where **God is sovereign**.
- B. The determining direction of two **different lifestyles**:
 1. **The righteous live by the faith that brings spiritual life (MARTIN LUTHER)** (Habakkuk in the NT)
 - a. A commitment to **facts**: embracing the **truth of the Gospel** (Rom.1:16,17--I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith.") (faith in the **Dx, accurate**)
 - b. A commitment to **grace**: embracing an **unearned gift of life** (Gal.3:10-11-- All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not

continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith.") (faith in the **Rx, free**)

- c. A commitment to **obedience**: embracing **God's will faithfully** (Heb.10:37-38-- You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay. But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him." (faith in the **Tx, necessary**)
2. The **lost live by the fruit that brought death** (Babylon in Eden)
 - a. The beginning of spiritual Babylon (Gen.3:6--When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it.)
 - b. The **three insatiable lusts, v.5** (Jn.2:15-17) (Christ's temptation)
 - (1) the lust of the flesh (Drunkenness & Inhibitions)
 - (2) the lust of the eyes (**Hell**, never enough souls)
 - (3) the pride of life (**Nebuchadnezzar's boast**-- Dan.4:30, "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?"

TRANS: Can you hear the voice behind Nebuchadnezzar's voice, the voice of the Serpent in the Garden, the voice of the Tempter of Christ in the wilderness, the voice of the Master of a Hell where the fires of desire, the flames of three insatiable lusts burn forever without being quenched? "How long?" we ask with the prophet Habakkuk, "How long will the world have to endure that destructive voice?" God's answer: **By faith believers will live; by pride Babylon will fall.**

II. The FIVE WOES of BABYLON

- A. Woe to the lust of the eyes (insatiable greed x 3)
 1. Vain wealth (**v.6-8**) (the **Ladder of Success**--who's next?)
 2. Vain health (**v.9-11**) (**House built on Sand**--135ft.thick walls?)
 3. Vain stealth (**v.12-14**) (a **play**) (Only one life) (**Eschaton**

curtain)

- B. Woe to the lust of the flesh (**v.15-17**) (**drugs & promiscuity**)
- C. Woe for the pride of life (**v.18-19**) (trusting in materialism, fame or philosophy **for direction & protection**) (Idolatry: **575 idol gate**)

TRANS: What's for sale in Babylon? The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the pride of life! What's the cost? The very soul itself. But God has just told Habakkuk that His people are going away captive to Babylon. How can this be? What is God's answer to Habakkuk's complaint? **"By faith believers will live; by pride Babylon will fall."**

III. The Ultimate Sovereign Reign of God Almighty (v.20)

- A. What happens to Babylon? (Rev.17-19) (re-read v.2-3) (**"Babylon" by Bob Ayala**)
- B. (**v.20**) What is our place in the matter? (the posture of **Silence**, waiting by faith, not by sight, reason, or speculation, just trusting)

CONCLUSION:

--I hope you are encouraged to hold on to your faith in God's promise to bring Satan's oppression to an end.

--Each day we live, we move one step closer to the Eschaton, that last day of earthly history.

--**By faith believers will live; by pride Babylon will fall . . .** let's keep eyes of faith focused on what Habakkuk saw: the Lord seated in His Holy Temple. Heb.12:2 says, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Let's have silent, listening hearts, never flagging in faith, as we await the coming ESCHATON of God.