

God Rules

Habakkuk Chapter 1

God Rules The Universe From Beginning To End

- He Is Lord Of Heaven And Earth.
Acts 17:22-31
- *“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34).*
- *“It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: for the throne is established by righteousness” (Proverbs 16:12).*

God’s Rule Includes Chastening And Judgment Of Nations

- God judged the world. Genesis 6-9
- Babel...God chastened those who tried to build *“a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven.”* scattering them *“upon the face of all the earth.”* Genesis 11:1-9

God’s Rule Includes Chastening And Judgment Of Nations

- NOTE: God’s chastening and judgments reflect His patience and love as He seeks to save men.
- Amorites. When God promised the land of Canaan to Abram, He delayed the fulfillment of the promise for four generations because *“the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full” (Genesis 15:16).*

God’s Rule Includes Chastening And Judgment Of Nations

- Sodom and Gomorrah were utterly destroyed for their homosexual sins by fire and brimstone which God rained down upon them. Genesis 18-19
Note 19:23-25
- The great cities of Sodom and Gomorrah would have been spared if God could have found only ten righteous people (Genesis 18:23-33).

God’s Rule Includes Chastening And Judgment Of Nations

- Israel warned: Deuteronomy 4, 8, 30; Joshua 23:16
- God sent chastisements and judgments upon Israel, the Northern kingdom, which were not taken to heart (Isaiah 9:8-10:4; cf. Amos 4:6-13).

God's Rule Includes Chastening And Judgment Of Nations

Israel taken captive by Assyria. 722 B.C.

2 Kings 17:1-18

Stubborn:

“Hardened their neck” (verse 14)

“Rejected statutes...” (verse 15)

Idolatry. (verse 17)

God's Rule Includes Chastening And Judgment Of Nations

Assyria to be destroyed.

The fall of Assyria, long previously prophesied by Isaiah. (Isaiah 10:5-19)

In 612 B.C. Nabopolassar united the Babylonian army with an army of Medes and Scythians...

Prophecies of *Nahum* and *Zephaniah*. (Zephaniah 2:13-15) fulfilled.

Complete destruction of Assyria. Ezekiel 31:1ff

God's Rule Includes Chastening And Judgment Of Nations

Judah to be destroyed by Babylon. Jeremiah 25:8-11

In 605 B.C. in the fourth year of Jehoiakim's reign, Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon invaded Judah (Jeremiah 46:2), besieged Jerusalem, and carried away captives to Babylon.

Jehoiakim destroyed the scroll. Jeremiah wrote again.

(Jeremiah 36:28-31)

Zedekiah appointed King of Judah. Jerusalem falls (586 B.C.) (Jeremiah 39:6-8)

God's Rule Includes Chastening And Judgment Of Nations

Babylon to be destroyed and the city would not be inhabited. Isaiah 13:1, 17-22; Jeremiah 50-51

Grandeur of Babylon, the capital of Chaldea, *“the glory of kingdoms”* and *“the beauty of the Chaldeans' pride.”* (Isaiah 13:19) cf. Daniel 4:30

- Two walls about eleven miles long. Outer wall was 25-feet thick and the inner one was 23-feet thick. Population 500,000.

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In 539 B.C., Babylon was conquered by Cyrus (cf. Isaiah 44:27ff), leader of the Medo-Persian alliance. Herodotus says that the army of Cyrus diverted the Euphrates River and then marched up the dry riverbed under the city walls. Babylon fell without a fight.

Babylon, the *“great city”* has *“become heaps, a dwelling place for jackals”* Jeremiah 51:37.

God's Rule Includes Chastening And Judgment Of Nations

All the world should see, *“the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men”* (Daniel 4:17; cf. Daniel 2).

All the world should see, *“The Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him”* (Habakkuk 2:20).

God Overrules The Wicked To Accomplish His Purposes

1. The King of Assyria was in the hand of God, *"...the rod of mine anger"* against sinful nations, *"howbeit he meaneth not so, neither doth his heart think so; but it is in his heart to destroy and cut off nations not a few"* (Isaiah 10:5-7).
2. The King of Babylon was in the hand of God, God said that after using Assyria to chastise and destroy sinful nations, *"I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high looks"* (verse 12).

God Overrules The Wicked To Accomplish His Purposes

3. Medes and Persians in the hand of God ... God saw the sins of Babylon and announced woes against it (Habakkuk 2:5-20). *"But the Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him"* (verse 20).
4. The prophet learned that we must *"wait"* for God to fulfill His purposes in His own time and way, for *"the just shall live by his faith"* (2:1-4).

God Overrules The Wicked To Accomplish His Purposes

In Habakkuk 3, Habakkuk praised the greatness of God and affirmed his trust in Him in the face of every tragedy and dilemma of life.

Human Power Cannot Overrule or Defeat God

Stubbornness and arrogance caused Pharaoh to ask, *"Who is Jehovah that I should obey his voice?"* (Exodus 5:2)

When God announced he would *"stir up the Medes"* to destroy Babylon, God said they could not be bribed or bought off (Isaiah 13:17). Material prosperity cannot deliver a nation from the hand of God.

Human Power Cannot Overrule or Defeat God

- Military might cannot deliver a nation from God's hand. *"He delighteth not in the strength of the horse: he taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man. The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy"* (Psalms 147:10-11).

What Can We Do?

- *"In the day of adversity consider"* (Ecclesiastes 7:14).
- Pray for our nation! (1 Timothy 2:1-6).
- Examine ourselves! (2 Corinthians 13:5).
- Help others to seek God! (Acts 8:4).

Conclusion: God Holds the Future

We do not know WHAT the future holds, but we know WHO holds the future.

1. In these uncertain times, people should see our unshakeable faith in God as we patiently wait for Him to fulfill His purposes.
2. All the world should see in us the reverence expressed by Habakkuk, ***“The Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him” (2:20).***

People who are not serving God must be told that the future holds a final judgment, when we all will stand in His presence, followed by eternity in heaven or hell.

1. He has appointed a day. Acts 17:30-31
2. Let the erring Christian confess his sins, repent, and pray God’s forgiveness (Acts 8:22-24).
3. Let those who have never obeyed the gospel put their faith in Christ, repent, confess his name, and be immersed in water for the remission of sins (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Romans 10:10).