

## HEART-STOPPING COURT ROOM

*Grace Lutheran—September 25, 2011*

### **Habakkuk 2:2 – 2:20**

**God tells Habakkuk: "It's coming. You can depend on it." (v. 2-3)**

**Then God shifts focus, looks at His people among His enemies. (v. 4)**

The righteous must live by faith, come what may.

Consider **Heb 11: 32-38**.

All by faith! No matter what happened. The world was not worthy of them.

**When God says, "Woe..." look out! (v 4-20)** How much fits us personally? As a nation? As a church?

v.4 puffed up, not upright: pride, wicked desires.

v.5 arrogant, restless (compare Mt 11:28-30, Ps 23:2, Ps 91:1, Is 30:15, Heb 3:11).

greedy as the grave,

enslaves others

v.6 piles up stolen goods. wealthy by extortion

v.7 in debt

v.8 plundered, shed blood, destroyed lands, cities...

v.9 builds economy by unjust gain. **Sets nest on high, to escape ruin.**

Jesus said, "He who seeks to save his life will lose it; he who loses his life for my sake and for the Gospel's, will find it!" (Mt 10:39, Lk 17: 33)

v.10-11 plotting ruin: shame, death. Stones cry out...

v.12 builds city by bloodshed, establishes town by crime.

**Interlude: a glance back at God. (v. 13-14)**

v.13 work is fuel for fire. What about our work? (personally, as a church, as a nation) 1 Co 3: 10-13 the nations exhaust themselves for nothing. Ps 2

Where is your treasure? (Mt 6:19-21) What's it really worth?? (Phil 3:7-11)

v.14 The earth will be filled., as waters cover the sea. Not just damp. Not just soaked. How much do you know Him?

**Back to the Woes**

v.15 drunken, manipulative, pornography.

v.16 Warning of judgment.

v.17 Like v.8 Violent, destructive.

**Last woe: idolatry (v. 18-19)**

Man-made, teaches lies, misplaced trust. Gives no guidance. Dead. Useless.

**But the Lord is in His holy temple (v.20)** The just Judge has come into the courtroom.

He's defined the law, defined who is guilty. No more arguments: everyone knows He's right.

Verdict is universal, permanent, eternal. Heart stopper. Be quiet.

**May we see Him, in Habakkuk 2:20, so awesome we hold our breath!**

**May we see the terribleness of His judgments with such reverent fear,**

**we wouldn't wish it on our worst enemies.**

**May we never be casual about sin!!**