

Warnings Against Drinking **Lesson 8**

Habakkuk 2:15-17

INTRODUCTION:

The nation of Babylon was noted for its devotion to wine and strong drink. In fact, God pictured Babylon's conquest by using the image of a cup of wine.

Compare Jeremiah 51:7.

"Babylon hath been a golden cup in the Lord's hand, that made all the earth drunk; the nations have drunk of her wine; therefore, the nations are mad" (Jer. 51:7).

He said that He was going to send judgment upon Babylon: *"I will make drunk her princes, and her wise men"* (v. 57). In other words, the nation that was trying to make others drunk was herself going to fall in her own drunken lethargy.

I. Woe Upon Those Given to Strong Drink

This brings us to Habakkuk 2:15-17, the _____ of the woes that God pronounced upon the nation of Babylon. It was the woe to those who are given to strong drink.

This is not a very beautiful picture, is it? What he's saying is that the nation of Babylon is going to be _____ because of their addiction to strong drink.

I think that we need to deal with this in some detail because alcohol consumption is America's number one _____ problem.

Eleven to fifteen million Americans are considered to be alcoholics. Americans spend about _____ a year or more on alcohol.

Alcohol problems cost the American economy an estimated _____ billion each year.

People hospitalized with alcohol use disorder have an average life expectancy of **47–53 years (men) and 50–58 years (women)** and die 24–28 years earlier than people in the general population.

Did you know that the leading cause of mental retardation is alcohol consumption during _____?

More than 250,000 Americans lost their lives in alcohol-related accidents during the past ten years—that's 25,000 a year! It has been estimated that one person dies every 21 minutes in an alcohol-related auto wreck. That's about 70 a day.

On an average weekend night, one out of every ten drivers on the road is drunk. Alcohol consumption is one of the leading cause of death for persons between the ages of 15 and 24—not elderly people but young people between the ages of 15 and 24.

II. Sins That Alcohol Breeds

Someone has said that in Washington, D.C., we have three parties: the Republican Party, the Democratic Party and the cocktail party. The amount of alcohol consumed on government premises and for government purposes in Washington, D.C., is inexcusable.

A. Immorality

In Habakkuk 2:15 we have the first sin that comes from alcohol, and that's immorality. The verse speaks about a man who gets his neighbor drunk so that he might look upon his nakedness.

Drinking and immorality go together. When people start drinking:

- 1- They start _____ their standards;
- 2- They start _____ their control.

The Bible says we should love our neighbor as our self (see Mark 12:31).

Habakkuk 2:15 says, *"Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink."*

THINK ABOUT NOAH:

This verse reminds me of what happened to Noah. He got drunk (see Gen. 9:20-23), and he was uncovered within his tent, because drunkenness and immorality always go together. Ham had a curse pronounced upon him.

_____ and _____ did the loving thing. God's Word says that love covers a multitude of sins (see I Pet.4:8).

Drink leads to immodest behavior, immorality.

B. Shame

Drinking also leads to shame. Habakkuk 2:16 says, *"Thou art filled with shame for glory."* In other words, those who drink like to glory in what they're doing.

It never ceases to amaze me how people brag about their sins. Philippians 3:19.

"Thou art filled with shame for glory."

God was saying, "One of these days all of the glory you think you have is going to turn into shame."

"Drink thou also, and let thy shame come upon thee (Hab. 2:16)."

Humanity has no permanent glory of its own. See I Peter 1:24-25.

So many people who have been disgraced because of alcohol!

C. Sickness

The third result that comes from alcohol is tragic, and it is sickness.

Habakkuk 2:16

"The cup of the Lord's right hand shall be turned unto thee, and shameful spewing shall be on thy glory."

That's a rather faint way of saying they're going to start _____.

Doctors have stated that every drink of alcohol shortens a person's life by 20 minutes. If you want to give away your body and your life, you can do it with alcohol.

D. Waste

Sickness and physical consequences come from alcohol, and so does waste:

Habakkuk 2:17

In this verse God was referring to the terrible ravages of the Babylonians against nature—against the fields and the trees and the animals. They wasted _____resources.

The Babylonians slaughtered the animals, and they ravaged the forest, and they killed the people. What did they do? They killed people uselessly.

Murders, as a result of alcohol, are common events. It's interesting that some _____percent of all murders are connected in some way with alcohol.

First the man takes a drink, and then the drink takes a drink, and then the drink _____ the man. The cities have been ruined.

God's wrath came down upon the nation of Babylon because of their addiction to alcohol. He made them drink the cup of wrath, and He turned their glory into shame.

Sometimes we need to stand up and be counted. I certainly wouldn't want any leader in a church I pastored to be even a social drinker. Paul said,

1 Corinthians 8:13

"Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend."

I've seen people converted from drunkenness and addiction to alcohol. The first thing they do is get rid of that bottle. Habakkuk 2:15, *"Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink."*

Avoid alcohol. Be an abstainer. No one ever becomes a drunkard unless they take their _____ drink.

I want to remind you of another passage in the Word of God.

Turn to Prov 23:29-35.