**BE SILENT BEFORE THE ONE TRUE GOD**

Habakkuk 2:18-20

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**INTRODUCTION**

Continuing a series of sermons from the shorter prophetic books of the Old Testament, I am preaching today from the short book of Habakkuk. He is writing during the time that the Babylonians are the great power in the world. They have either come against Judah already, or are about to do so. However, the temple has not yet been destroyed. The Babylonians will come on three occasions and finally destroy the southern kingdom in 587 B.C. Habakkuk is crying out to God for deliverance from them. In his complaint he speaks about the problem of trusting in false gods and how we should come before the one true God.

1. **HOW CAN WE TRUST FALSE GODS?**
2. Idols and images are not **gods**.
3. They are the **creations** of man’s **hands**.
4. They are made of **wood** or **stone**.
5. Idols and images cannot do things that we expect of **God**.
6. They cannot **speak**.
7. They cannot give **guidance**.
8. Idols and images fail in the most important area of **what** **God** **does**.
9. They have no **life**.
10. They cannot give **life**.

*In light of these self-evident truths, how can man be so foolish as to trust in his own creations to help, speak, guide, save, give life? Can man be so foolish as to trust in gods of wood or stone? They cannot help when there is an enemy at the gate. Only God can!*

1. **HOW CAN WE COME BEFORE THE ONE TRUE GOD?**
2. Remember **where** He is.
3. He can be found in His **holy** **temple**.
4. He can also be found **wherever** you call upon Him.
5. Remember **what** to do.
6. Come before Him with **reverence**: “Be silent before him.”
7. Come before Him with **humility**: God is God!
8. Remember **when** to come before God.
9. Come before Him regardless of the **circumstances** (see 3:17-18).
10. Come before Him with **expectation**: He will listen to and hear your prayers.

*Our God can save from any circumstance and from any enemy. We must not throw up our hands in despair when circumstances turn against us. Rather, we must even more turn to God for help with even greater resolve. Remember, God is God!*

**CONCLUSION**

You cannot trust gods of wood and stone to listen to your cries for help and salvation. Only the one true God can do that! Our God can be found if you seek Him. However, are you aware that He is also seeking you? He is not asleep! He is not on vacation! He is not AWOL—absent without leave. “God is in His holy temple!” He is here with us today. Do you feel His presence? Do you feel His love? He is here—right now!

*“We are standing on holy ground, and I know that there are angels all around.*

*Let us praise Jesus now. We are standing in His presence on holy ground.”*