

Title: **Woe #3: The Name-Maker Forgotten**
Text: **Habakkuk 2:12-14**
Date: **September 25, 2022**

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Big Idea

We're all tempted to try to make a name for ourselves apart from God, but such efforts are doomed to fail. Only Christ can give us an identity that is stable and secure and able to stand the test of time.

With this third woe we now come to consider not only that the plunderer will be plundered (Woe #1), and that the life-saver will be lost (Woe #2), but also that the name-maker will be forgotten (Woe #3). Because these Babylonians are trying to forge an identity apart from God, even in opposition to God, they shall be rendered nameless in the end, and all their labor will be for nothing.

1. The Reversal

The Stated Offense (v. 12)

The very thing that drove the people at the tower of Babel (Gen. 11), is the same thing that drove Nebuchadnezzar however many years later (Dan. 4), and it is the same thing that's driving the city-building in our text here in Habakkuk. "I want a name. I want to be known. I want to be great." They are building up not just a city, but an identity.

The Promised Judgement (vv. 13-14)

When your own name, your own glory, is what's motivating you, everything you're working for, it's literally going to "go up in smoke." You're just gathering kindling for the fire, so to speak. It's not going to last. And your name will inevitably be forgotten.

Do you know any of the names of those who gathered to build the tower of Babel, to make a name for themselves? I don't. But I do know the name of Abraham, who was called out by God in the very next chapter (Gen. 12) from that same region—he's brought into God's family, and set on his mission. I know the names of Isaac and Jacob and all of their kids. I know the names of the people who labored not for their own name and glory but for God's.

You and I may not be trying to make a name for ourselves over and against God in quite the same way as these Babylonians. But certainly we must admit we're tempted to do it in one way or another. We may not match the Babylonians in *deed*, but I think, if you're willing to look closely, you'll see that we match them, quite devastatingly, in *heart*. Maybe you're not building a tower or city to make a name for yourself, but you might be building a company, or a family, or a resume, or something like this.

2. The Rescue

If you look closely at our text, you realize: all that God says will rightly come for Babylon is actually what, startlingly, comes for Jesus at the cross. God has come in judgement against his own Son: "Woe to you!" But, of course, he's done nothing wrong. Though he's receiving all the judgment God promised the Babylonians, truly, he's committed none of the offenses. Why? Because he's come to rescue us.

3. The Renewal

When you stop trying to carve out your identity over and against God, you actually find your true identity—what you were created for all along. You realize the God of the universe knows you, he loves you, he's got you. What more do you have to prove? Who cares if your name is written in the lights of this world. Your name is written in heaven and there's nothing that can blot that out!

Now, if you get this, if you really get this, then so far as your laboring and work is concerned, then at least two effects will result: (1) *You Can Truly Stop*; and (2) *You Can Truly Go!*



Reflection Questions

- In what way are you most tempted to carve out a name for yourself apart from Jesus? To what do you sometimes find yourself tethering your identity? Why do you think? What effect does this have on your heart and actions? How would finding your identity in Jesus change things?
- Read Ps. 127:1-2. How do these verses speak to you right now? Do you feel like you can stop? Do you feel like you can rest? Why or not? What needs to change? How would being able to truly stop actually help you to truly go?

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Our Mission & Values

Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.

FAITH: The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate relationship with him. This value presses our church *upwards* in love for God.

COMMUNITY: The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. This value presses our church *inwards* in love for Neighbor | We are the Family of God and brought into covenantal relationship with him. This value presses our one another.

MISSION: The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his ambassadors. This value presses our church *outwards* in love for the unbelieving.

Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.
We are so glad you've joined us today!

Announcement Spotlight

Ladies Fellowship! - This Saturday, October 1st!

Ladies, please join us on Saturday, October 1st from 1:30-3:30pm for a relaxing afternoon of fellowship! Come for the entire two hours, or just drop in for a while if it's a busy day for you. It's a chance to catch up and connect with old friends and make new ones as well. If you are new to the church, we'd especially like to meet you! We'll gather in the Wilson's backyard at 6181 Blossom Ave., San Jose. Just enter through the side gate next to the driveway. We hope to see you there!

Please scan the QR code below to find a link to RSVP!

All Church Hangout - Next Sunday!

Meaningful community is hard to find in Silicon Valley, even in the church. Our congregation is spread out all over the city. But there is one day of every week when we all commit to gather together and worship our God: Sunday. It seems strategic to take this pre-existing momentum and work with it in an attempt to develop deeper community within our body. Therefore, on occasional Sundays throughout the year we will invite the church to enjoy picnic-style afternoons together immediately following the service.

The Plan: After service, bring or buy your lunch and join us at the tables out back for a picnic-style afternoon.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at info@mercyhillchurch.org.

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