

### Introduction – "How to handle the Word of God"

#### An Experiential Sermon

#### A quick recap

1. A Silent God and a Loud Prophet  
Habakkuk 1:1-4
2. God does the unexpected  
Habakkuk 1:5-11
3. "You're going to do WHAT?!?!"  
Habakkuk 1:12-17

#### Waiting for God

Habakkuk 2:1

#### The God who is NOT Silent

A. God speaks clearly, powerfully, and in his own time  
(Habakkuk 2:2-3)

B. "Puffed Up" vrs. Righteousness  
(Habakkuk 2:4-5)

Romans 1:15-17

Galatians 3:11-14

Hebrews 10:35-39

C. "I will not tolerate treachery!"  
(Habakkuk 2:6-20)

#### Five Woes

1. Woe #1 (2:6b-8)
2. Woe #2 (2:9-11)
3. Woe #3 (2:12-14)
4. Woe #4 (2:15-17)
5. Woe #5 (2:18-20)

#### Application – "Come to the Table!"

#### Habakkuk 2:1-20

<sup>1</sup>I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint. <sup>2</sup>Then the LORD replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. <sup>3</sup>For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay. <sup>4</sup>"See, he is puffed up; his desires are not upright – but the righteous will live by his faith – "indeed, wine betrays him; he is arrogant and never at rest. Because he is as greedy as the grave and like death is never satisfied, he gathers to himself all the nations and takes captive all the peoples. <sup>6</sup>"Will not all of them taunt him with ridicule and scorn, saying, <sup>6a</sup>"Woe to him who piles up stolen goods and makes himself wealthy by extortion! How long must this go on?" <sup>7</sup>Will not your debtors suddenly arise? Will they not wake up and make you tremble? Then you will become their victim. <sup>8</sup>Because you have plundered many nations, the peoples who are left will plunder you. For you have shed man's blood; you have destroyed lands and cities and everyone in them. <sup>9</sup>"Woe to him who builds his realm by unjust gain to set his nest on high, to escape the clutches of ruin! <sup>10</sup>You have plotted the ruin of many peoples, shaming your own house and forfeiting your life. <sup>11</sup>The stones of the wall will cry out, and the beams of the woodwork will echo it. <sup>12</sup>"Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed and establishes a town by crime! <sup>13</sup>Has not the LORD Almighty determined that the people's labor is only fuel for the fire, that the nations exhaust themselves for nothing? <sup>14</sup>For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. <sup>15</sup>"Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbors, pouring it from the wineskin till they are drunk, so that he can gaze on their naked bodies. <sup>16</sup>You will be filled with shame instead of glory. Now it is your turn! Drink and be exposed! The cup from the LORD's right hand is coming round to you, and disgrace will cover your glory. <sup>17</sup>The violence you have done to Lebanon will overwhelm you, and your destruction of animals will terrify you. For you have shed man's blood; you have destroyed lands and cities and everyone in them. <sup>18</sup>"Of what value is an idol, since a man has carved it? Or an image that teaches lies? For he who makes it trusts in his own creation; he makes idols that cannot speak. <sup>19</sup>"Woe to him who says to wood, 'Come to life!' Or to lifeless stone, 'Wake up!' Can it give guidance? It is covered with gold and silver; there is no breath in it. <sup>20</sup>But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him."

#### Romans 1:15-17

<sup>15</sup>That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome. <sup>16</sup>I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. <sup>17</sup>For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

#### Galatians 3:11-14

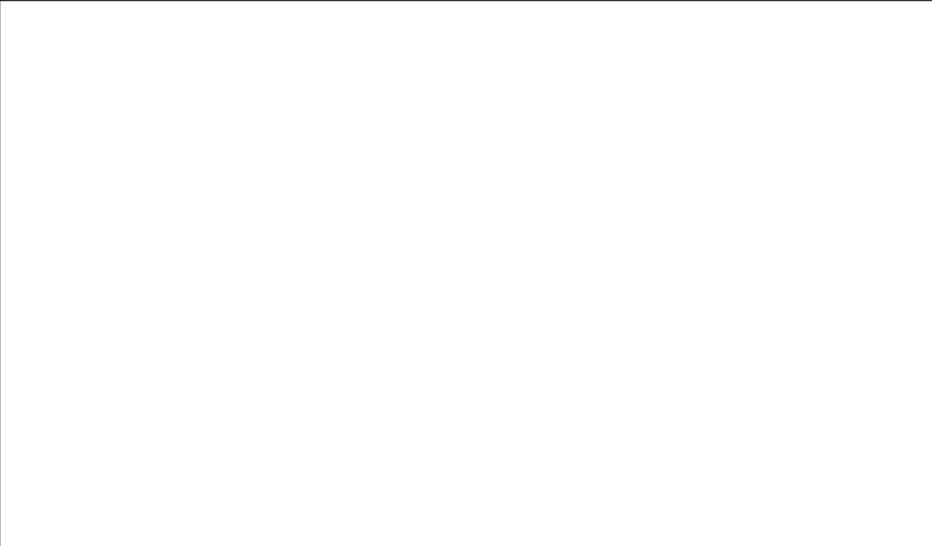
<sup>11</sup>Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith." <sup>12</sup>The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, "The man who does these things will live by them." <sup>13</sup>Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." <sup>14</sup>He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

#### Hebrews 10:35-39

<sup>35</sup>So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. <sup>36</sup>You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. <sup>37</sup>For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay. <sup>38</sup>But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him." <sup>39</sup>But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

Isaiah 44:9-20 - see screen or use a pew Bible





**“Is not my word like fire,” declares the  
LORD, “and like a hammer that breaks a  
rock in pieces?”**

~ Jeremiah 23:29

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# MAJORING

**on a minor**

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a five-week look into the Big Questions of

**Habakkuk**

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# A Quick Review

## 1. *Habakkuk's First B. Q.*

### **Habakkuk 1:2-4**

<sup>2</sup>How long, O LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save? <sup>3</sup>Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrong?

Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds. <sup>4</sup>Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.

**“A silent  
heaven is the  
greatest  
mystery of  
our  
existence...”**

**~ F. F. Bruce**

# A Quick Review

## *2. God's Response to Habakkuk's Complaint*

### **Habakkuk 1:5-10**

<sup>5</sup>“Look at the nations and watch—and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told. <sup>6</sup>I am raising up the Babylonians, that ruthless and impetuous people, who sweep across the whole earth to seize dwelling-places not their own. <sup>7</sup>They are a feared and dreaded people; they are a law to themselves and promote their own honor.

# Is he safe?

"Safe?" said Mr Beaver; "don't you hear what Mrs Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's *good*. He's the King, I tell you."



# A Quick Review

## *3. Habakkuk's response is a protest*

### **Habakkuk 1:13**

<sup>13</sup>Your eyes are too pure to look on evil;  
you cannot tolerate wrong.

Why then do you tolerate the treacherous?  
Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up  
those more righteous than themselves?

SUFFERING

**God's Ways are not Our Ways!**



**Fairness**

**vrs.**

**Justice**

**The God who is NOT silent!**



**The God who is NOT silent!**

*The Waiting of Habakkuk*

# The God who is NOT silent!

## *The Waiting of Habakkuk*

### **Habakkuk 2:1**

<sup>1</sup>I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts;  
I will look to see what he will say to me,  
and what answer I am to give to this complaint.

*Faithful Waiting...*



# The God who is NOT silent!

1. *God speaks clearly, powerfully and in his own time*

# The God who is NOT silent!

*1. God speaks clearly, powerfully and in his own time*

## **Habakkuk 2:2-3**

<sup>2</sup>Then the LORD replied: “Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. <sup>3</sup>For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.

*God still speaks...*

# The God who is NOT silent!

2. *“Puffed Up vrs. the Righteous*

# The God who is NOT silent!

## 2. *“Puffed Up vrs. the Righteous*

### **Habakkuk 2:4-5**

<sup>4</sup>“See, he is puffed up; his desires are not upright – but the righteous will live by his faith – <sup>5</sup>indeed, wine betrays him; he is arrogant and never at rest. Because he is as greedy as the grave and like death is never satisfied, he gathers to himself all the nations and takes captive all the peoples.

## Romans 1:15-17

<sup>15</sup>That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome. <sup>16</sup>I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. <sup>17</sup>For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: **“The righteous will live by faith.”**  
[Habakkuk 2:4]

## Galatians 3:11-14

<sup>11</sup>Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, “The righteous will live by faith.” [Habakkuk 2:4] <sup>12</sup>The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, “The man who does these things will live by them.” [Leviticus 18:4] <sup>13</sup>Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” [Deuteronomy 21:23] <sup>14</sup>He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

## Hebrews 10:35-39

<sup>35</sup>So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. <sup>36</sup>You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. <sup>37</sup>For in just a very little while [Isaiah 26:20], “He who is coming will come and will not delay. [Habakkuk 2:3] <sup>38</sup>But my righteous one will live by faith. [Habakkuk 2:4] And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him.” <sup>39</sup>But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

# *Puffed up vrs Righteous*



## **ARROGANCE**

THE BEST LEADERS INSPIRE BY EXAMPLE. WHEN THAT'S NOT AN OPTION,  
BRUTE INTIMIDATION WORKS PRETTY WELL, TOO.

# The God who is NOT silent!

3. *“I am just! I will not tolerate treachery!”*

# The God who is NOT silent!

3. *“I am just! I will not tolerate treachery!”*

## **Habakkuk 1:13**

Why then do you tolerate the treacherous?  
Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up  
those more righteous than themselves?

# The God who is NOT silent!

3. *“I am just! I will not tolerate treachery!”*

**Habakkuk 2:6**

<sup>6</sup>“Will not all of them taunt him with ridicule and scorn, saying,

# The God who is NOT silent!

3. *“I am just! I will not tolerate treachery!”*

**Woe #1**

# The God who is NOT silent!

3. *“I am just! I will not tolerate treachery!”*

## Woe #1

### Habakkuk 2:6b-8

“Woe to him who piles up stolen goods and makes himself wealthy by extortion! How long must this go on? <sup>7</sup>Will not your debtors suddenly arise? Will they not wake up and make you tremble? Then you will become their victim. <sup>8</sup>Because you have plundered many nations, the peoples who are left will plunder you. For you have shed man’s blood; you have destroyed lands and cities and everyone in them.

# Extortion



# The God who is NOT silent!

3. *“I am just! I will not tolerate treachery!”*

**Woe #2**

# The God who is NOT silent!

3. *“I am just! I will not tolerate treachery!”*

## Woe #2

### Habakkuk 2:9-11

<sup>9</sup>“Woe to him who builds his realm by unjust gain to set his nest on high, to escape the clutches of ruin! <sup>10</sup>You have plotted the ruin of many peoples, shaming your own house and forfeiting your life. <sup>11</sup>The stones of the wall will cry out, and the beams of the woodwork will echo it.

# Unjust Gain



# The God who is NOT silent!

3. *“I am just! I will not tolerate treachery!”*

**Woe #3**

# The God who is NOT silent!

3. *“I am just! I will not tolerate treachery!”*

## Woe #3

### Habakkuk 2:12-14

<sup>12</sup>“Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed and establishes a town by crime! <sup>13</sup>Has not the LORD Almighty determined that the people’s labor is only fuel for the fire, that the nations exhaust themselves for nothing? <sup>14</sup>For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

# Violence for personal gain



# The God who is NOT silent!

3. *“I am just! I will not tolerate treachery!”*

**Woe #4**

# The God who is NOT silent!

3. *“I am just! I will not tolerate treachery!”*

## Woe #4

### Habakkuk 2:15-17

<sup>15</sup>“Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbors, pouring it from the wineskin till they are drunk, so that he can gaze on their naked bodies. <sup>16</sup>You will be filled with shame instead of glory. Now it is your turn! Drink and be exposed! The cup from the LORD’s right hand is coming round to you, and disgrace will cover your glory. <sup>17</sup>The violence you have done to Lebanon will overwhelm you, and your destruction of animals will terrify you. For you have shed man’s blood; you have destroyed lands and cities and everyone in them.

# Exploitation



# The God who is NOT silent!

3. *“I am just! I will not tolerate treachery!”*

**Woe #5**

# The God who is NOT silent!

3. *“I am just! I will not tolerate treachery!”*

## Woe #5

### Habakkuk 2:18-20

<sup>18</sup>“Of what value is an idol, since a man has carved it? Or an image that teaches lies? For he who makes it trusts in his own creation; he makes idols that cannot speak. <sup>19</sup>Woe to him who says to wood, ‘Come to life!’ Or to lifeless stone, ‘Wake up!’ Can it give guidance? It is covered with gold and silver; there is no breath in it. <sup>20</sup>But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him.”

## Isaiah 44:9-20

<sup>9</sup>All who make idols are nothing, and the things they treasure are worthless. Those who would speak up for them are blind; they are ignorant, to their own shame. <sup>10</sup>Who shapes a god and casts an idol, which can profit him nothing? <sup>11</sup>He and his kind will be put to shame; craftsmen are nothing but men. Let them all come together and take their stand; they will be brought down to terror and infamy. <sup>12</sup>The blacksmith takes a tool and works with it in the coals; he shapes an idol with hammers, he forges it with the might of his arm. He gets hungry and loses his strength; he drinks no water and grows faint.

## Isaiah 44:9-20

<sup>13</sup>The carpenter measures with a line and makes an outline with a marker; he roughs it out with chisels and marks it with compasses. He shapes it in the form of man, of man in all his glory, that it may dwell in a shrine. <sup>14</sup>He cut down cedars, or perhaps took a cypress or oak. He let it grow among the trees of the forest, or planted a pine, and the rain made it grow. <sup>15</sup>It is man's fuel for burning; some of it he takes and warms himself, he kindles a fire and bakes bread. But he also fashions a god and worships it; he makes an idol and bows down to it.

## Isaiah 44:9-20

<sup>16</sup>Half of the wood he burns in the fire; over it he prepares his meal, he roasts his meat and eats his fill. He also warms himself and says, “Ah! I am warm; I see the fire.” <sup>17</sup>From the rest he makes a god, his idol; he bows down to it and worships. He prays to it and says, “Save me; you are my god.” <sup>18</sup>They know nothing, they understand nothing; their eyes are plastered over so that they cannot see, and their minds closed so that they cannot understand.

## Isaiah 44:9-20

<sup>19</sup>No one stops to think, no one has the knowledge or understanding to say, “Half of it I used for fuel; I even baked bread over its coals, I roasted meat and I ate. Shall I make a detestable thing from what is left? Shall I bow down to a block of wood?” <sup>20</sup>He feeds on ashes, a deluded heart misleads him; he cannot save himself, or say,  
“Is not this thing in my right hand a lie?”

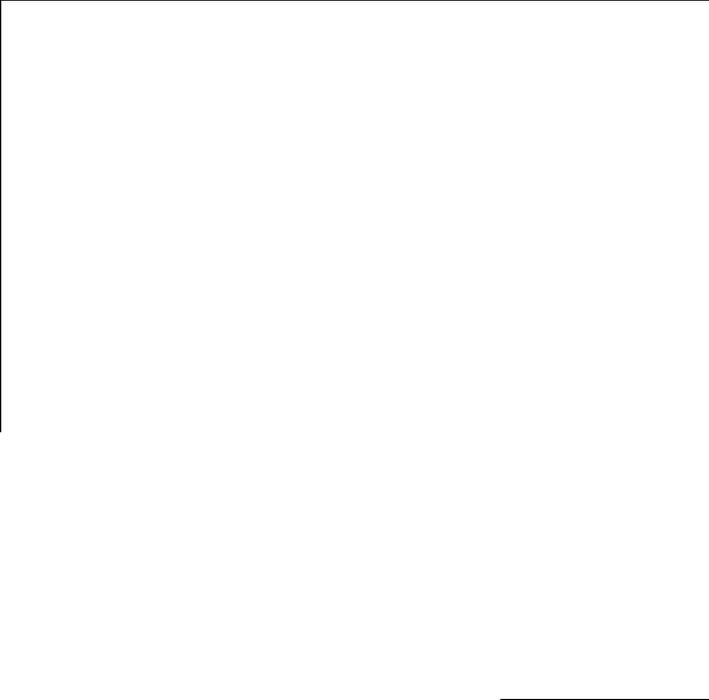
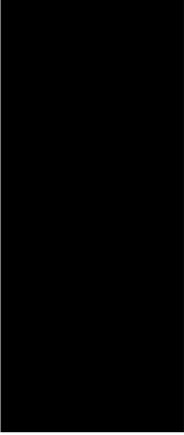
# Idolatry



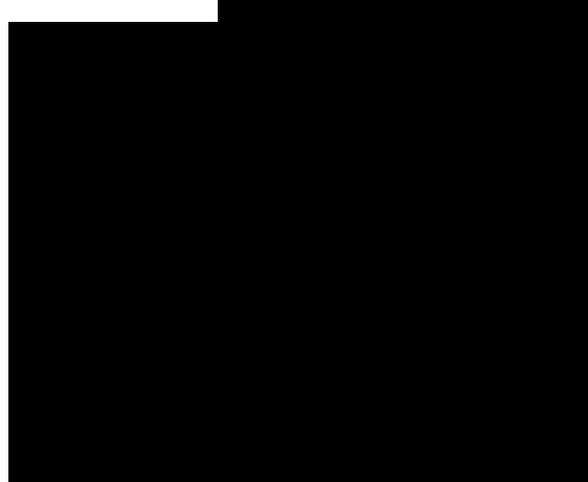
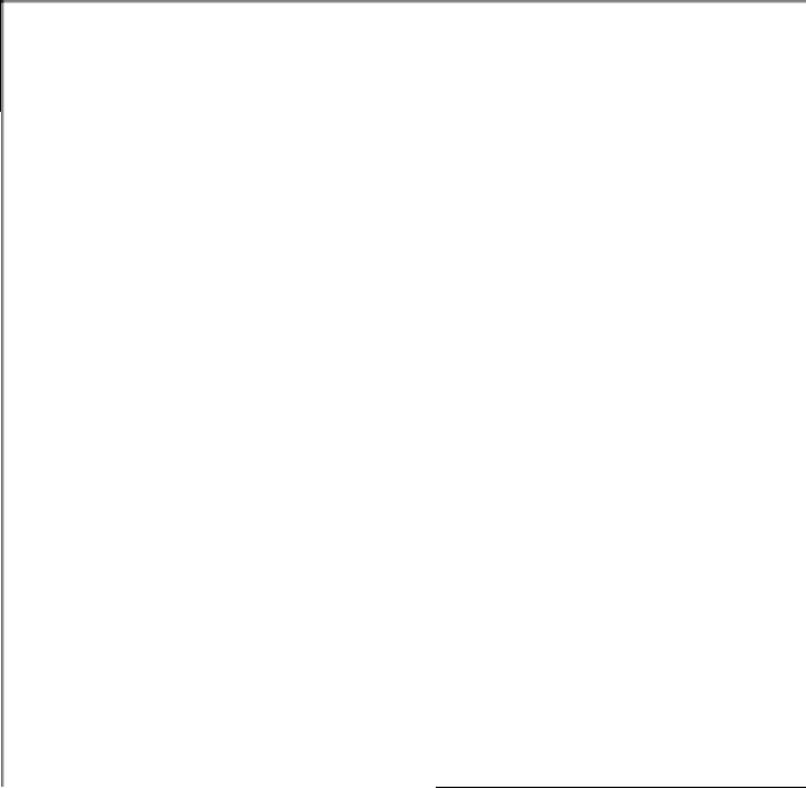
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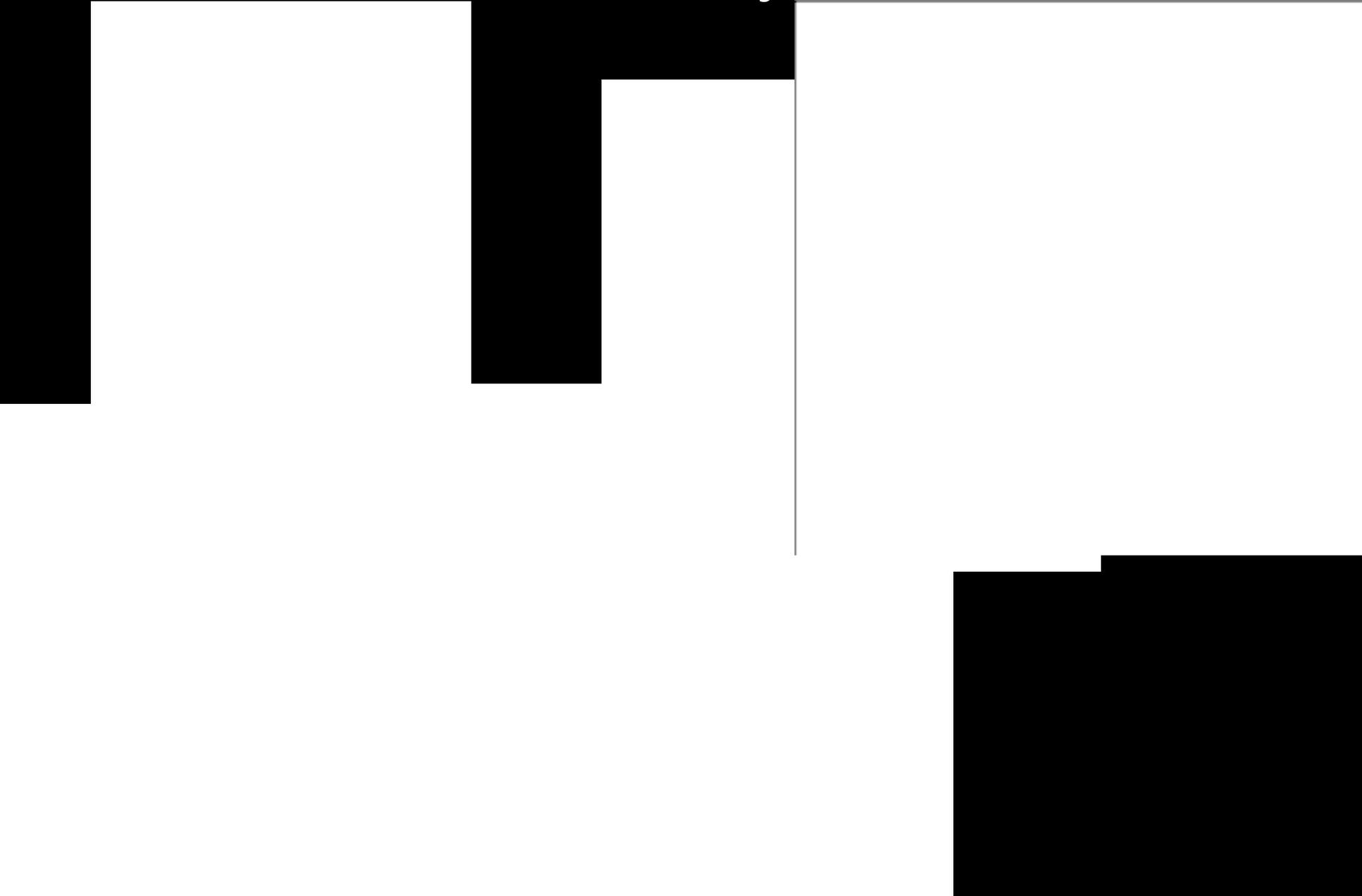
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