

The Book of Habakkuk

Chapter 3

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- Some see this poem as a recital of God's past working with Israel giving hope for their future. My best interpretation is that this looks not backward but forward in time, seeing the Second Coming of Christ in all His power and glory and His victory at Armageddon. There may be allusions to God's past works but the focus is the future.
- vs. 1 – *Shigionoth* – “wandering, rambling” (?), plural form of the word *Shiggaion* in the title of Psalm 7.
- vs. 2 – The prayer of the prophet upon hearing of the coming judgments is for God to move like He did in the past. He will do just that in the future. This is the equivalent of “Even so, come, Lord Jesus.” (Revelation 22:20)
- vs. 3 – The Second Coming of Christ occurs when the remnant of Israel has retreated to the area of Edom/Bozrah – Isaiah 63:1-6, Micah 2:12-13
 - Teman is the southern territory of Edom – Jeremiah 49:7,20; Ezekiel 25:13; Amos 1:12; Obadiah vs. 9
 - Paran is the desert area on the eastern side of the Sinai Peninsula.
- vs. 4-5 – The overwhelming glory of Christ's appearance – II Thessalonians 2:8, Revelation 19:11-16
 - Gaebelein – “May we not have here a hint of His hands pierced once, but now emanating glory?”
- vs. 6 – The earth and His enemies tremble at His coming. The mountains and hills may represent kingdoms of men.
- vs. 7 - Cushan are the Ethiopians and Midian the people on the northwest Arabian Peninsula. These would be on the east and west witnessing Christ sweeping northward from Edom.
- vs. 8-15 – The overwhelming victory of Christ (Armageddon)
 - vs. 8 – The earth itself had sense enough to tremble before Christ in His wrath (vs. 6), even though He had not come to judge the rivers, seas, or mountains. He had come to judge mankind, who did not have enough sense to tremble before Him.
 - vs. 9 – The bow pictures impending judgement as an arrow nocked upon a bowstring pulled back to fire (see Psalm 7:11-13.) This judgement is according to God's promises to Israel (ex. Genesis 12:1-3, especially “curse him that curseth thee”).
 - vs. 9-10 – Pictures floods and perhaps tsunamis as the earth quakes before Christ as He approaches in judgment. See Matthew 24:7 and Revelation 16:18-20.

- vs. 11 – Sun and moon are overwhelmed by the glory of Christ in His wrath – Matthew 24:29-30, II Thessalonians 2:8.
- vs. 12 – Armageddon – Isaiah 63:1-6, Revelation 19:15
- vs. 13 – Gaebelein – “But while He comes thus, executing wrath and judgment upon the ungodly, He comes in mercy. He goes forth for the salvation of His people, for the salvation of Thine anointed, that is, the elect nation and the God-fearing, waiting remnant of the last days (Psalms 105:15)”
- vs. 13 – head out of the house of the wicked – Probably the Antichrist and his final defeat at Armageddon is seen here (Revelation 19:20), but I would like to think this is a reference back to Genesis 3:15 and the wounded head is none other than Satan.
- vs. 14 – The timing of Christ’s victory is just as it seems the Jews will be obliterated by their foes – Jeremiah 49:13-14
- vs. 15 – I think this describes that no obstacle could stop Christ’s advance.
- vs. 15 – horses – Revelation 19:14
- vs. 16-19 – The encouraged prophet’s reply
 - Gaebelein – “The prophet now speaks of his own feeling, which reflects the feeling of the godly among the Jews when this great theophany becomes history. There is fear and trembling in view of the coming tribulation. When he heard it he trembled; he is completely prostrated. He desires rest in the day of trouble, the day when the final enemy of God’s people marches through the land. Then faith is triumphant, and in one of the most magnificent outbursts the prophet declares his confidence in his God (Habakkuk 3:17). Such will be the faith of the godly who pass through the time of great trouble. Finally he rejoices in the God of his salvation and declares his hope that his feet will be like hinds’ feet to escape to the high places. Even so the remnant of Israel will be delivered.”
 - vs. 16 – The reaction to the greatness of the vision is similar to Daniel’s in Daniel 8:27.
 - vs. 17 – no matter what comes...
 - vs. 18 - ... have faith in the future of God’s promises.
 - vs. 19 – Walking in faith is living by faith - Habakkuk 2:4