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C1222 – July 11, 2012 – Habakkuk 3:3-12
The Wrath At The Second Coming

If you'd turn in your Bible to the prophet Habakkuk. Habakkuk is the last pre-exilic prophet in the south as Hosea is the last pre-exilic prophet in the north. So you might look at those two men as facing similar situations and you might say we face a similar situation in our nation as well. We all have to watch our nation going down before our very eyes, we all love the LORD our God, we all love our nation, we are all distressed and frustrated with the situation of our nation, we all want our nation to repent and return to God. But a difference between them and us is they were prophets and as such they both had the opportunity to give the final call to their nation to repent, but painfully, both of them had to watch their nation go into Exile to foreign powers. And perhaps some of us sitting here tonight will have to watch that happen to our nation too.

Now Hosea's nation, the northern kingdom went into Exile to the Assyrians in 721BC and Habakkuk's nation; the southern kingdom went into Exile to the Babylonians in a series of three deportations; 605, 597 and 586BC. Those are key dates.

As we focus our attention on the southern kingdom, just before it went into Exile, in 1:1-4 Habakkuk was made to really see how corrupt his kingdom was, how maliciously the government officials were treating the righteous remnant in the courts of law, how they abused the Law God gave at Mt Sinai, negating it, much like what is happening to our Constitution when the Legislative Branch forfeits powers to the Executive and the Judicial steps all over the Legislator. So we know what this man was feeling. Violence to the Law! And he was puzzled that God was not doing anything about it to rescue the righteous godly remnant from such blatant abuses. God answered in 1:5-11 that He was doing something about it, He was raising up the Babylonians

to discipline the entire southern kingdom. God always uses foreign nations as a rod of discipline in His hand to chastise His chosen people and that principle still holds today. Nazi Germany was a disciplinary rod of God upon the back of Israel. However, what puzzled Habakkuk in 1:12-2:1 was that, not only did it sound like the righteous remnant would be caught up in this judgment along with the wicked, but the nation God had chosen to discipline them with, the Babylonians, were worse than Israel. So Habakkuk, puzzled once more, asks God if there is any means of escape for the righteous and whether the Babylonians will rise to dominate the world stage without end. God's answer in 2:2-20 is that the righteous remnant can be saved by walking by faith and while Babylon will rise to dominate the world stage as a Gentile power, they will be punished for their arrogance against God's chosen people. God always punishes foreign nations for cursing Israel and that principle still holds today. As our nation turns more and more against Israel we will be cursed more and more. Likewise, Babylon would not dominate the world stage forever but would be judged by God in their near future, which judgment occurred by another Gentile kingdom who we will learn about in the Book of Daniel called Medo-Persia, and yet even though Babylon would be destroyed, elements of Babylon would continue to survive and be incorporated into subsequent Gentile kingdoms until the end of the times of the Gentiles when the final form of Babylon will rise in its most powerful form under Antichrist but be totally defeated and Israel will be restored to her kingdom with the Messiah reigning from the throne of David over all the earth.

In response to this revelation, Habakkuk, in 3:1, praises God by way of a Psalm he composed for the Levitical choir, to be accompanied by stringed instruments. And this Psalm is a prayer containing three requests and several praises to God. In verse 2 we find the three prayer requests. Prayer request one; "O LORD, revive Your work in the midst of the years," in the time between our Exile to Babylon and the judgment of Babylon revive your ancient work, the kind of work you did on behalf of the nation Israel at the Exodus where you set us free from Pharaoh, at the time of the Red Sea when You parted the waters, at the time of Mt Sinai when you appeared as Shekinah Glory on the mountain top and gave us the Law, at the time of the Wilderness Wanderings when You nourished us with manna. O LORD, revive that work in the midst of the years on behalf of your peoples. Prayer request two, also in verse 1; "In the midst of the years make it known;" make your

work understood by us; make us realize the significance of the work. Israel did not always sense the significance of God's miraculous work on their behalf. Even after the ten plagues in Egypt, the parting of the Red Sea, the miraculous provision of manna in the wilderness, many of them wanted to go back to Egypt, many of them grumbled in the wilderness, many of them were impatient and disobeyed the Lord. So Habakkuk prays, "in the midst of the years make your work known," make us understand. And prayer request three; "In wrath remember mercy." When you judge Babylon, remember to be merciful to the Jews. Surely you will slaughter them, we Jews deserve to be slaughtered too, but be merciful to us LORD and refrain from slaughtering us along with them. So it's a prayer request that looks to the far distant future when God stands up to destroy Babylon utterly and restore Israel to her kingdom with Messiah reigning from the throne of David over all the earth. And those are the only three prayer requests in the Psalm.

In verse 3 we have God's answer to the three requests which Habakkuk saw in vision. And what makes the passage difficult is the verb forms. As Dan Wallace says, "All of the forms are best taken as indicating completed action from the speaker's standpoint (all of the prefixed forms being regarded as preterites). The forms could be translated with the past tense, but this would be misleading, for this is not a mere recital of God's deeds in Israel's past history. Habakkuk here describes, in terms reminiscent of past theophanies, his prophetic vision of a future theophany (see v. 7, "I saw"). From the prophet's visionary standpoint the theophany is "as good as done."ⁱ Did you catch that? What it sounds like is going on here in the Hebrew is a mere recital of past works of God on behalf of Israel, mainly at the Exodus and at Mt Sinai and in the wilderness wanderings, but it's actually Habakkuk lifting language from those past works of God on behalf of Israel and applying them to a future work of God on behalf of Israel. So in a very real sense, the first prayer request in verse 2, "revive Your work in the midst of the years," is going to be answered and to convey that Habakkuk uses the very same language used of past works of God on behalf of Israel and applies it to a future work of God for Israel. So there are a lot of similarities between the plagues of God in Egypt at the Exodus which perfectly discriminated between Egypt and Israel, judging Egypt and saving Israel and the plagues that will come in the future in connection with the Second Coming of Jesus Christ when God will judge the nations and save Israel. And He does the same thing with Mt Sinai; he takes the language of God coming to Mt Sinai to meet with

Israel and applies that to a future coming of God to meet Israel. So he's showing there's a pattern to the way God works. Always you want to look for patterns because it's the patterns you find in Scripture that help you detect the work of God.

So let's look at some of these patterns, verse 3 describes the initial place of God's Second Coming in terms of the Theophany at Mt Sinai. Mt Sinai is in the same region as the two places mentioned here. **God comes from Teman, And the Holy One from Mount Paran.** Teman is a city in southern Jordan and Mount Paran is a larger area including Teman. The point is just as the Lord came to Mt Sinai to meet the nation so He is going to initially come to this same region to meet the nation at His Second Coming.

Now since many Christians think that the Second Coming occurs at the Mt of Olives it will do us some good to show that His initial coming is not at the Mt of Olives but a place in the region of Teman and Mount Paran.

So turn to Micah 2:12. Verse 12, **I will surely assemble all of you, Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel.** In the last days God is going to gather the godly remnant of Israel to a specific place, a place where they can be protected from the Antichrist and his armies, that's what this is talking about, **I will surely assemble all of you, Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel, I will put them together like sheep in the fold;** or "sheep in the pen." The point is a safe place, but in the Hebrew the word translated **the fold** or pen is "Bozrah" which is another name for the ancient rock city of Petra. So the Hebrew text is designating the place God will gather them to protect them as Petra. And interestingly, Petra is located in one of three regions mentioned in Dan 11:40-45 that will remain as the last strongholds when the Antichrist comes to reign. So the Antichrist will take control of the world except a few regions that hold out to the end and Petra is in one of those regions. In verse 13, "The breaker goes up before them; They break out of Petra, pass through the gate and go out by it," there's only one way out of Petra and the Messiah, the breaker will come to rescue Israel from here and go up to Jerusalem. "So their king goes on before them, And the LORD at their head." Showing the initial arrival occurs at Petra to rescue the Jews and then they head up to Jerusalem.

Let me show you another passage showing that Petra is the location of His initial coming. Turn to Isa 63. This one is interesting, not only because it cites the same location, but it pictures the Messiah coming in His war garments to make war with the nations. Notice verse 1, “Who is this who comes from Edom,” Edom is one of those last three regions Daniel mentions as holding out against Antichrist. And within Edom he gives the more exact location, “With garments of glowing colors from Bozrah,” or Petra, same place. “This One who is majestic in His apparel, Marching in the greatness of His strength?” And you scan through the rest of the verses, just let your eyes scan down, it’s very clear He’s coming in judgment.

Let’s turn to Rev 12. Rev 12 is a summary of Israel’s history as it relates to Satan. Satan’s plan was to kill Israel’s Messiah at His birth, which is why you find infant son slaughters in the Bible, he’s trying to kill the Messiah, when He failed to do this through Herod and the Messiah escaped, was victorious and ascended to the right hand of the Father, Satan turned his attention toward trying to destroy the nation who gave birth to the Messiah. Rev 12 goes through the highlights of Satan’s history. And notice verse 13, “And when the dragon,” that’s Satan, “And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *child*.” At the mid-point of the Tribulation Satan is going to be cast out of heaven and he’s going to persecute the woman who gave birth to the Messiah. Clearly the woman is not Mary because this is in the future Tribulation, so the woman is the nation Israel. Satan is cast out of heaven and he immediately goes after the nation that gave birth to the Messiah. Verse 14, “But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place,” What place? Petra, that’s the place designated by God. And we should already know that from Isaiah, from Micah, from Habakkuk. There’s no need to tell us again. God is going to miraculously work in the nation Israel’s life to get them safely out of Jerusalem and to Petra just like He safely got them out of Egypt to Mt Sinai. The only problem with Petra is where are all those millions of Jews going to get food and water? If you’ve ever been there it’s as dry as a bone and not a plant for miles, it’s just sandstone wilderness. But what does verse 14 say? “where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.” So God will miraculously provide food and water for them in that wilderness setting just as He did for them during the wilderness wanderings. These are patterns you can detect between God’s past

miraculous deliverance of Israel from Pharaoh and miraculous provisions in the wilderness wanderings with His future miraculous deliverance of Israel from the Antichrist and miraculous provision in the wilderness of Petra. Revive your work O LORD, your ancient work, do again what you did before. And God will. God will put them in Petra and provide food and water for them there until the Messiah initially comes to that place and rescues them.

How about let me take you to Matt 24:15. You can see Petra in Matt 24 if you have all these passages together. Matt 24 is for national Israel. It's built on Dan 9. What's Dan 9? The seventy sevens. The first sixty nine sevens are past at the crucifixion, only the seventieth seven remains, the seventieth week. How does it start? Antichrist makes a treaty with the leadership of Israel. He promises them peace, he gives them their temple, they start sacrificing, in the middle of the seven years is where Matt 24:15 picks up. "Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), 16 then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains." What's this flee to the mountains bit? Where are they fleeing too? We've been reading Micah, Isaiah, Revelation. They're headed to where? Petra. Verse 17 "whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house. 18 whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak." You better get out of town fast because the Antichrist is going to go on a killing spree. Verse 19 But woe to those who are pregnant to those who are nursing babies in those days! 20 But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on the Sabbath. 21 For then there will be a great tribulation, such as is not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will." God is purging the nation Israel in that second half of Daniel's seventieth week. So the Jews who believe and maybe some who don't but want out of there are going to flee to Petra. Now we have a remnant of Jews gathered in the sheep pen of Petra.

Now I want to comment on when they'll be rescued from Petra because eventually Antichrist is going to find out where they are and try to attack. So turn to Matt 23:39. This is one of the key verses in the NT. Jesus is pronouncing judgment on that generation of Israel because they did not receive Him as their King. So the nation would go to judgment. Verse 37, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen

gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.” I wanted to gather you, I wanted to protect you but you didn’t want Me. Verse 38, “Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! ³⁹“For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, ‘BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!’” What has to happen for Jesus Christ to come back? He’s leaving? What does the nation Israel have to say before they will see Him again? ‘BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!’” Which is a Messianic greeting. All the Jews say this is the Messianic greeting. They have to greet Jesus as the Messiah, they have to call Him back and until they do Jesus isn’t coming back.

Let me show you another one, Joel 2:32, because we want to show that the prophets do indeed say that Israel will call on the Messiah to come back. So all we’re doing now is syncing passages, putting passages together. In verse 31 you see the context is a time of global catastrophe, “The sun will be turned into darkness And the moon into blood Before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.” That’s the day of the Second Coming, the great and awesome day of the LORD. Just prior to that what is the world facing? Great cosmic judgments. And what did Habakkuk pray? Oh LORD, in wrath remember mercy on us Jews. This clearly is the time of wrath on the nations, verse 32 is the mercy. “And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD will be delivered;” there’s the Jews getting mercy, if you call on the LORD you will get mercy. And the mercy is the Lord Jesus Christ is going to come back and rescue you. And what did Jesus say in Matt 23:39? Until you greet Me you won’t see Me. Joel said the same thing, whoever calls on My name of the LORD will be saved. They’ll be delivered

In the meantime, let’s think about Israel’s status right now and turn to Rom 11:25. What’s going on with Israel now? Right now the nation Israel is partially hardened, they are partially blinded to the gospel. Notice what Paul says, “For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;” notice it’s only a partial hardening right now. And it’s not permanent because once the fullness of the Gentiles has come in then God will take away the partial hardening and He’ll open their eyes to realize who Jesus is. Verse 26, “and so all Israel will be saved.” When that hardening is removed, boom, they got it, they see, they’re spiritually blinded right now, they can’t see, but a time is

coming when they will see; they'll call on the Lord to be saved and all Israel will be saved. So whether you take that as spiritual or physical salvation or both, the bottom line is the same, God still has a plan for Israel and that plan is that when they call on the name of the Lord, Jesus will return. It's that call that stimulates the return and rescue of Israel from Gentile powers.

That's right where Hab 3:3, **God comes from Teman, the Holy One comes from Mount Paran** comes in. They've called on Jesus Christ to come and He's coming. And we've pinpointed the initial place of His coming, Petra. We move now to Hab 3:3b and 4 where we see the Shekinah Glory. What's the Shekinah Glory? The visible manifestation of God, usually in a cloud or fire. What did Moses see when he was keeping sheep and a voice spoke to him? A burning bush. Was that real fire? No, that was Shekinah Glory. What did God lead the Israelites out of Egypt with? By day He led them by cloud, by night He led them by fire. That's Shekinah Glory. What did He descend on Mt Sinai in? A storm, clouds, thunder, lightning, it was a great storm Theophany, that's Shekinah Glory. What was in the holy of holies in the Tabernacle and Temple? Smoke and light. The Shekinah Glory. Over and over you see the Shekinah Glory. What did you see at Messiah's First Coming as a sign of His birth? Wasn't there a great light, a star that appeared and disappeared? Led the wise men to the very house he was in. That was Shekinah Glory. What did Jesus disappear in when He ascended in Acts 1? A cloud. That was Shekinah Glory. And here we are in Hab 3:3b and what do you think is enshrouding the Lord Jesus Christ at the Second Coming? Shekinah Glory.

Notice how it is described in 3b? **His splendor covers the heavens, And the earth is full of His glory**, it should say **glory** not praise. **His radiance is like the sunlight**; it should say lightning, not sunlight, **lightning**. He has rays or thunderbolts **flashing from His hand, And there is the hiding of His power. 5 Before Him goes pestilence, And plague comes after Him**. What we have here is a description of the Shekinah Glory enshrouding the King on the day of His Second Coming. And it's very interesting that there are certain passages in the OT and NT that indicate that when you have this fire or this cloud, inside it is a Person. For example, the cloud that led them by day through the wilderness to Mt Sinai, it refers to the cloud in a personal way, not as an it but as a person leading them. Or think about that famous passage in Daniel when Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego are

thrown in the fiery furnace and Nebuchadnezzar says, hey, we just threw three guys in their right? Well why is it I see a fourth man running around, one looking like a Son of Man. Who is that fourth man? Is that not Jesus Christ enshrouded by Shekinah Glory in the fiery furnace? I bet it is! And when He returns at the Second Advent, once again Jesus Christ is shrouded in Shekinah Glory, an unbelievable **splendor** that **covers the heavens**, certainly the atmospheric heavens just above the earth but no less the starry heavens as well, **and the earth is full of His glory**. It can't be missed. Nobody is going to miss the Second Coming. Every eye will see Him cloaked in the splendor of Shekinah Glory.

Verse 4, **His radiance is like the sunlight**, but it's not the word for **sunlight**, it's the word "lightning," and the point is that His radiance is brighter than the sun. Lightning is extremely bright, much brighter than the sun; a single bolt can light up the entire sky! And you can't help but think of Saul on the Damascus Road when the Lord Jesus appeared to him and Paul reports, I saw a light brighter than the sun and one speaking to me like a Son of Man. I said who are you sir, and He said, I am the one you are persecuting! What do you think that bright light was? It was the Shekinah Glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. And here He is again, cloaked in a light far brighter than the sun. And **He has rays flashing from His hand**, these are lightning bolts, technically, weapons of vengeance to strike the earth, **And there is the hiding of His power**. The point is it's so bright you're blinded by it; the radiance is so great that you can't see His entire power. You need some super sunglasses to look at this. You can see that He is powerful by the lightning bolts in His hand but the radiance is so blinding that you can't see how powerful He is. And the imagery is all about His incomprehensible power, His infinite power; it can't be comprehended by any human being all that Jesus Christ is. Like Moses who was enabled to see the back of God, He couldn't see all of Him, but when he came down whatever He saw was so great it left an imprint on his face and he went around glowing, I don't mean like a person who just got married, I mean literally glowing, his face was putting off light. Now that's what it's going to be like on the day of the Second Coming. He's coming back in amazing splendor and glory.

We'll see another passage, Matt 24:29. Here the Lord in the Olivet Discourse picks up on this imagery of His Second Coming. Verse 29, "But immediately after the tribulation of those days **THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON**

WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.” Tremendous cosmic disturbances, you’ve got a complete blackout, everywhere on earth it’s going to be completely black and then, verse 30, “the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky,” the sign *is* the Son of Man within the Shekinah Glory, it’s a tremendously bright light on this black background, “and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.” With power and great glory, the cloud, the light, that’s Shekinah Glory. And you have this reaction in verse 30, all the tribes of the earth will mourn. It’s a global mourning because every eye will see Him. Why are they mourning? Because He’s not coming as a meek and mild carpenter boy, He’s coming back as the King of the universe, to take what is rightfully His and to reign in power and nobody’s going to stop Him. They’re not going to partake in His reign because they rejected Him, they rejected salvation, these people worshipped Satan, and everybody worships either God or Satan. It’s not true that there are religious and non-religious people, there are people who worship God and there are people who worship Satan and there are no other people. It’s a black and white issue and these people worshipped the black, they loved the darkness, and here comes the Light, Jesus Christ, the enemy of darkness in fantastic splendor, lightning bolts in His hand ready to judge darkness.

Hab 3:5-7 and here we come to the effects of His arrival. **Before Him goes pestilence, And plague comes after Him.** That’s parallelism. And we see more patterns with the way God works. In the past He judged Egypt with pestilence and plague, in the future He will revive such works as He heaps out judgment on the nations. The Hebrew word means any kind of punishment that results in death, so it’s not limited to the normal idea of pestilence, which is disease, but refers to all kinds of judgments that cause death. Such judgment goes before Him and all that is left behind Him is death.

Verse 6, **He stood and surveyed the earth; He looked and startled the nations.** As He makes His descent in the vision Habakkuk sees the Messiah stop and survey the earth. He looks at all the nations and they’re startled, they’re astonished. The Hebrew for **startled** means they trembled with fear, literally, they leapt with terror.

And not only did men leap with terror but nature. **Yes, the perpetual mountains were shattered, The ancient hills collapsed.** With a glance they were flattened. By perpetual mountains Habakkuk is referring to mountains built during the last half of the Flood of Noah, great mountains like Mt Everest, K2, Mt Rainier, all the great mountains of the earth will be flattened. Prior to the Flood it was relatively flat and most of the water was encased inside subterranean lakes. When the Flood occurred these subterranean lakes burst forth flooding the earth and causing rapid geological changes. When God decided to cause the floodwaters to subside He began to build mountains and form deep ocean basins for the water to run into. So the present ocean basins and mountains were formed during the Flood. At the Second Coming this will be reversed when He looks at the mountains they will be completely flattened, the entire geological landscape will be changed in preparation for the kingdom and the earth will no longer be recognizable as the present earth.

Finally verse 6 concludes, **His ways are everlasting** or better, ancient ways are His, ancient ways of doing things are His. This is another pattern. In ancient times the way God did things when He judged was by changing the topography of the earth, as at the Flood of Noah, and in the future He does things the same way. People are without an excuse. They all know how God works and that catastrophes are God's way of judging; they just suppress this truth in unrighteousness and immense changes occur to the earth.

Verse 7, not only nature but man, **I saw the tents of Cushan under distress, The tent curtains of the land of Midian were trembling.** This is more patterns in history again. Habakkuk picks up the language of God's miraculous works for Israel in the past at the Red Sea. **Cushan** and **Midian** lay on either side of the Red Sea. When Pharaoh realized all Egypt had been plundered he brought his army up to the rear of Israel and Israel was cornered, she was surrounded on two sides by mountains, one side by the Egyptian army and the other side by the Red Sea. The Lord parted the Red Sea so the Israelites walked through on dry land and the Egyptians walked in and the waters came back together and killed them all. This caused the people of **Cushan** and **Midian** to fear and tremble. So it will be again when God judges the earth, people will fear and tremble. If a simple look could shatter all the mountains of earth, what hope would there be to huddle up

under your **tent**? Clearly the people who dwell on earth will be terribly frightened when they see the Son of Man coming in all His glory and power.

Verse 8, **Did the LORD rage against the rivers, Or was Your anger against the rivers, Or was Your wrath against the sea, That You rode on Your horses, On your chariots of salvation?** No, while nature was dramatically affected He was not angry at nature, He was angry at man who destroyed nature by sin. As goes man, so goes nature. You can never separate man from nature because God made man the lord of nature, when man failed to subdue nature properly by rebelling against Him, God made nature rebel against man to teach man what rebellion against Him is like. So when God judges man He judges man and nature and man with nature. So the Lord is not mad at nature. He is mad at man. Again we have a pattern here of God judging man and nature and man with nature. Take for example the **rivers, Did the LORD rage against the rivers.** In Egypt God turned the Nile River to blood. Why did He do this? Was He mad at the river? No, He was mad at the Egyptians, so He judged the Egyptians by turning the Nile River to blood. At the same time He was saving the Jews in Goshen. Or take the sea. **Was Your wrath against the sea?** When Israel left Egypt they went to the Red Sea. God parted the Red Sea in order to save Israel but to judge the Egyptian army. So in each case God was not angry at nature, God was angry at men and He used nature to both judge and save men. There was a perfect discrimination between those who were judged and those who were saved. And He will perfectly discriminate in the future again by judging man with nature. God's work in the past for Israel will be repeated in the future!

Verse 9, **Your bow was made bare, The rods of chastisement were sworn.** The **bow** is figurative for another implement of war, He **made it bare** means He pulled it out of its case and prepared to use it in battle, to fire arrows at His enemies, the nations. **The rods of chastisement were sworn,** referring to a past thing God promised to do. **Chastisement** is the Hebrew word "word" and is strange but the point is that God had stated in His word that He would utilize the rod against nations that attacked Israel. He who curses Israel will be cursed. And so **rods of chastisement** or "punishment" **were sworn,** meaning God had promised to do this in earlier times and the exact place is Deut 32. Habakkuk is clearly referring to Deut 32 as applying to this future time when God will punish the nations.

End of verse 9, **You cleaved the earth with rivers.** Here you see the effects of His implements of war on **the earth.** He sends forth **rivers,** a tremendous hydrological force. The Grand Canyon was ripped apart by a massive dam breach in the post-Flood world. And that shows you how powerful water is. It cuts through tons of rock, geologists now understand that when rushing water occurs it causes plucking and vortexes which pick up massive rocks and toss them like toothpicks ripping out more rock, they've discovered cavitation which are tiny bubbles of air that explode literally on par with TNT blowing massive cuts through solid rock. Such disasters will come upon the future world radically altering the earth and simultaneously destroying God's enemies.

Verse 10, **The mountains saw You and quaked,** here we have earthquakes causing tremendous tectonic plate movement that radically alter the earth's crust, devastating entire cities and populations in seconds. God has used earthquakes in the past on a small scale, He will do it again at His Second Coming on a much greater scale.

The downpour of waters swept by. With imagery from the Flood he depicts massive flooding due to rainfall that will erode soil and devastate humanity. Further **The deep uttered forth its voice, It lifted high its hands.** The waves of the sea will grow into tsunamis travelling hundreds of miles, building enormous energy able to do an amazing amount of work in only a short period of time, suddenly crushing coastlines, burying cities under hundreds of feet of mud never to be seen again.

And not only on earth, but verse 11, the heavens, **Sun and moon stood in their places; They went away at the light of Your arrows, At the radiance of Your gleaming spear.** He will strike those objects. He has struck them before at Ai when the sun and moon stood still in Joshua's day. There are patterns to the way God works. And He will do this again in the future. He made the light go away in Egypt under the ninth plague, He will do it again in the future, the entire earth will face a complete blackout. What God has done before will be done again, only in greater measure.

All nature is at His command ready to do His will and that might cause you to think of our Lord in the gospels who rebuked the winds and the waves, who caused the fig tree to wilt, who walked on water, who turned water into

wine, who healed human sickness, who had total control of nature at His fingertips. What He has done before, He will most certainly do again, and on a larger scale for all to see.

Verse 12 summarizes, all this is the **indignation** of the Messiah as He **marches through the earth; In anger trampling the nations** at His Second Coming. They have had more than enough patterns laid down in history to know clearly, they have rejected and time is up. Jesus Christ is coming back and not as a suckling babe, as a One Man Army. And the whole earth will tremble at His sight.

Oh that the rulers of the earth would heed the Psalmist who says, “Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!”

ⁱ Biblical Studies Press. (2006). *The NET Bible First Edition; Bible. English. NET Bible.;* *The NET Bible.* Biblical Studies Press.

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