

# *“The Glory of the Lord Covering the Earth”*

## *Habakkuk 2:13-14*

### INTRO:

Habakkuk is God’s prophet in a tough place. God has decided to dispense judgment on His people of Judah. That judgment is in the form of the Chaldeans coming down and invading the Promised Land and destroying Judah as Habakkuk has known it. Habakkuk responded to this revelation from God with a reality check, and a question. How can God do this? How can He judge Judah using people who are worse than Judah is?

God’s answer to Habakkuk is chapter two of the book. It is three towers of spiritual reality in a sea of judgment. Last time we looked at the first tower of truth, **“the just shall live by faith.”** Today we will look closely at the second tower of truth in the midst of judgment.

***“Behold, is it not of the LORD of hosts that the peoples labor to feed the fire, and nations weary themselves in vain? For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea”*** (Habakkuk 2:13–14).

The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD. What does that mean?

***I. The Judgment Does Not Mean that God is Powerless***

***II. The LORD’s Glory will be Seen***

***I. The Judgment Does Not Mean that God is Powerless***

A. This statement is given to Habakkuk after God has already announced three specific judgments upon the Chaldeans. God then takes a breather to include an important truth for Habakkuk and others who are living by their faith to take hold of and to hope. Yahweh, the ever faithful covenant keeping God of Judah is not defeated, indifferent, or inactive in this.

1. While the Chaldeans are evil to the core and they will credit the victory to their idols and make the true and living God look powerless, the fact is, the LORD is in control and is actually making this happen. **(Habakkuk 2:13)**

***“Behold, is it not of the LORD of hosts that the peoples labor to feed the fire, and nations weary themselves in vain?”***

All the things the Chaldeans are doing are temporary and the bill will come due. Maybe Habakkuk cannot see God behind the curtain, but all that is taking place is in His will and is under His control.

2. We can almost hear Habakkuk say, “Wonderful God, I believe this is true, but where is it going, when will it end?” That is where **vs. 14** comes in.

B. Here is how it will all end. This is how you can understand the goal of all that the LORD of Judah is doing,

***“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”***

God’s glory shall still reign supreme on planet earth. Mark it down in your book, it will happen. God has not given up His throne. He has not lost control of His creation. He will still rule over all of planet earth and someday all will acknowledge Him.

## ***II. The LORD’s Glory will be Seen***

A. It will probably surprise you (It did surprise me) to realize how often this statement is repeated in the Bible. Let us just graze in this meadow of spiritual truth and sit down and chew this cud a little.

B. Consider first a contemporary of Habakkuk’s Isaiah the prophet.

***“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea”*** (Isaiah 11:6–9).

Here is the very same phrase used here in the context of the Millennium. Clearly the point is that all will see who God is and what He has done in His eternal plan. God will win in the end and He will be glorified as God alone,

C. We are also told by the seraphim that this indeed will happen and is taking place in **Isaiah 6:3** ***“And one [seraph] cried to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!’”***

God not only will be in control of all things in the future, He is in control now. We can rest in His control.

D. God’s ultimate goals cannot be frustrated by humankind’s sin. Remember the first time that Abraham’s people came to the edge of the Promise Land and Israel refused to enter in? God threatened to destroy Israel which they richly deserved. Instead, the LORD pardoned them of their sin, but still enacted judgment on them. The important point, which God makes crystal clear, is that Israel’s disobedience did not frustrate His plan.

***“Then the LORD said: ‘I have pardoned, according to your word; but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD’”*** (Numbers 14:20-21).

E. **Psalm 72** closes with the Psalmist prayers for God’s glory. Could this be like the Lord’s Prayer? ***“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”***  
We read **Psalm 72**;

***“Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things! And blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen. The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended” (Psalm 72:18–20).***

F. When will this happen on planet earth? We are given a brief peek at this glorification in **Philippians 2:5-11,**

***“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”***

That day will come as surely as God lives.

What are we doing to prepare for that day? Are we purifying ourselves as He is pure? Are we seeking to walk in close fellowship with Him? Are we sharing this reality with others? Do we hold on to it and draw strength from it in the difficult times in our lives?