

Message #7

Habakkuk 3:3-7

By the time we reach chapter 3 in Habakkuk, he is a changed man. Instead of questioning God, he is humbly petitioning God. Throughout the book God has informed Habakkuk that He is on His Throne sovereignly controlling everything that is happening in the world. Habakkuk finally came to the point where he realized that.

He knew that God was working out His plan and he also knew that that plan meant Israel was going to receive the judgment of God from some ruthless kinds of individuals and the most ruthless will be the Antichrist. He will try to gather as many nations with him as he can to destroy Israel.

When Habakkuk understood this point, he prayed to God and in his prayer he said please, God, “in wrath remember mercy.” As we come to this text, God says Habakkuk, you may be sure that I will. I will remember My mercy to My people.

God wants His people to know that He will totally demolish the arrogant people who did and said negative things against His own people and then after He has demolished all arrogant God-mockers, He will literally Personally come to this earth and completely take over the world.

What God wants His people to know is that:

GOD’S PEOPLE MAY LIVE THEIR LIVES BY QUIET FAITH KNOWING THAT GOD HIMSELF, IN THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST, WILL COME BACK AND HE WILL DESTROY ALL OF THE ARROGANT ENEMIES OF HIS PEOPLE AND HE WILL GIVE THEM HIS BLESSINGS.

Before we embark on a journey through this text, let us say that to this point what is described in these verses has not happened. The totality of what is described here will happen and may be on the verge of beginning to happen now. Now there are fourteen powerful prophetic facts revealed in these verses that we want to observe:

REVELATORY FACT #1 – The One who is coming is God . **3:3a**

Now this is a very significant point because this is a point that can really cause the people of God to just quiet down and trust Him, living their lives by faith. God is going to come in Person to this earth.

Now normally in Hebrew, when we read the proper noun “God,” it is Elohim, which is the plural noun that refers to God as the Sovereign Creator, who is over all things. However, the noun used for God in Hebrew here is “Eloah,” a singular noun which emphasizes one specific member of the Godhead, who is specifically going to come to this earth.

Now we know from passages like Isaiah 9:6 that a Son will be born who ultimately would come to earth and have all the government of God on His shoulders. In fact, Isaiah said, “For a child will be born to us, and the government will rest on His shoulders and His name will be called Wonderful, counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.” So some Son would be born in this world who eventually would have all of the government of God on His shoulders and He would be called “the mighty God.”

We know from looking at passages in the New Testament and including the book of Revelation that the Person who is God, who will actually come to take over this world, will be none other than Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul predicted there would come a day when every knee would bow before Jesus Christ and confess He is Lord (Philippians 2:10-11).

What we learn here is that Jesus Christ is God and He is the One who is coming to settle the score for Israel. He was here once but He certainly did not do what is predicted here. So He is coming back again and He is God.

Every arrogant leader and person had better realize this point—the God who created the world and everything in it is coming to judge those who have mocked Him.

REVELATORY FACT #2 – God is coming from Teman. 3:3b

Now Teman was a large city in Edom. Edom is located in the south/east of the Promised Land and is an area controlled today by Arabs. In fact, this area is known today as modern day Jordan. This is land that sits south and east of the Dead Sea and slopes down into the Arabian Desert and into Saudi Arabia.

Now Ezekiel predicts that God is specifically going to target Teman and Edom with a specific judgment because these Arabs have habitually done such horrible things to His people, Israel (Ezek. 25:12-14). In fact, Ezekiel predicts that these Arabs will specifically be targeted for the anger and wrath of God. He specifically says in Ezekiel 25:14 that He will pour out His vengeance on the Arabs “by the hand of My people Israel.” It is clear that the leader of this Arab destruction will be none other than Jesus Christ.

What is revealed here is that when Jesus Christ returns, He will let His people see Him totally and completely obliterate the Arab God-mockers who have so hurt Israel. Those Arabs who have worshipped their own deity Allah will be targeted for the wrath of God by the true God, Jesus Christ.

REVELATORY FACT #3 – The One who is coming is the Holy One. 3:3c

This is a key point God’s people want to always remember: the One who is coming is Holy. God is a Holy God and He is coming back to this unholy world and He will settle the score.

We look around at this world and we see horrible, evil things taking place. Political leaders and judicial leaders promote and support things that are abominations to God. We actually live in a country that has removed God and His Word and prayer from our schools. People in high places have done this.

God says know this, I AM HOLY. I am coming to this earth as Holy Judge and those God-mockers and those Christ-rejecters and those Bible haters will experience the full brunt of My wrath.

REVELATORY FACT #4 – The Holy One is coming from Mount Paran . **3:3d**

Now Mt. Paran was a very special spot, because this was the place in the Sinai Peninsula where God appeared to Israel as she came out of Egypt (Deut. 33:2-4).

By virtue of the fact that God reveals this prophetic fact, it does teach us at least two very important points:

First, God will physically show up and display Himself for Israel as He did at Mt. Sinai.

Second, God will pick up the land matters with Israel that to this hour have not yet been fulfilled.

By using these geographical locations, God is saying to Israel, My coming is in direct connection to Israel and the Promised Land.

In fact, Habakkuk says, “selah,” stop and think about this for a moment. The Holy God is coming in Person to obliterate the Arab world and give Israel all of her land.

REVELATORY FACT #5 – The Holy One’s splendor covers the heavens . **3:3e**

Now there is no question that the glory and splendor of God is seen in the heavens. However, this is a specific prophetic moment that is being referred to here when Jesus Christ comes out of heaven. He will come out of heaven in all of His glory. This is a critical point.

When Jesus was here on earth, He warned His people (Matt. 24:23-27) that many false prophets and false religious people would surface who would try to convince Israel that they were the Messiah. In fact, Jesus said some of them will be able to do some impressive miracles and signs. But Jesus was very emphatic to point out when I, the true Messiah, come back I am coming visibly out of heaven. He said that the powers of the heavens will be shaken and then He will come “on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory” (Matt. 24:30).

John described this moment in Revelation 19:11 and he said, “I saw heaven opened.” What Habakkuk is saying is that when God comes in the Person of Jesus Christ, He is coming right out of heaven in all of His glory and splendor.

REVELATORY FACT #6 – The earth will be full of His praise. **3:3f**

Not only will the earth be filled with the knowledge of God (Habk. 2:14), but it will also be filled with the praise of God and the praise of the Holy One, Jesus Christ. What a day that will be. When Jesus Christ returns, the entire earth will praise Him and praise God. All will realize how all the things that praised God. Everything will point to the praise of God.

God-mocking, Bible-mocking politicians and businessmen will be removed. No one will praise godless leaders or people. No more meteorologists talking about “mother nature.” No more idiotic professors in a classroom promoting evolution. No more silly scientists discussing “big bang.” No more false religions. No more tampering with the Person and Work of Jesus Christ. No more Mormons, no more Muslims, no more Hindus. No more Christian Science, Jehovah’s Witness or Seventh Day Adventists. No more mysticism or religious philosophy, or Greek mythology; the whole earth will be full of the knowledge of God and of the praise of Jesus Christ.

REVELATORY FACT #7 – The Holy One will have radiance like the sunlight. **3:4a**

When John gives his description of Jesus Christ reigning, he says that there will no longer be any night; there will be no need of any lamp or light “because the Lord God shall illumine them and reign forever and ever” (Rev. 22:5).

When Jesus Christ was here the first time, He did not look anything like this. In fact, Isaiah said He had no “stately form or majesty” (Is. 53:2). There was nothing about His appearance that attracted any to Him. But the next time He comes, He will radiate the light of God.

REVELATORY FACT #8 – The Holy One will have flashing power out of His hand. **3:4b**

What is literally described here is that power literally flashes from His fingertips. He literally will be able to move mountains and also He will be able to command the Antichrist into hell.

REVELATORY FACT #9 – Before He comes, pestilence and plagues will come. **3:5**

God sent plagues one time to the Egyptians in order to free Israel, and He will send them again in order to bless Israel. Clearly, the horrors of the Great Tribulation will precede the coming of Jesus Christ.

When we carefully read Revelation 6-19, there are various pestilences and plagues that are coming against this world right out of heaven and right from the hand of God. Judgments will be poured out against water and vegetation. There will be diseases and scorching heat. God will command famines and earthquakes and death to plague this earth.

All of this will signal His arrival is on the way.

REVELATORY FACT #10 – The Holy One will measure the earth. **3:6a**

Why is He doing this? He is doing this for several reasons. First of all, He will judge everyone on earth and second, He is measuring the earth because when He comes back, He will remember exactly the specific land He promised to Israel, specifically to Abraham (Gen. 15:18-21). The first thing He will do is make sure Israel has every inch of that land He promised to her and any nation that is in that land will be routed out of it.

Those Arabs would be very wise right now to back off and give Israel the land God has promised to her. If they would do that, God would bless them. But they are not about to do that. So when Jesus Christ returns, He will destroy those Arabs and He will measure the earth and Israel will have every foot of the land God has promised to her.

REVELATORY FACT #11 – The Holy One will startle the nations. **3:6b**

The idea of “startling” the nations is the idea of doing something that was way over and above anything any nation ever thought and it is so startling that they are trembling in terror (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 377). What God will ultimately do to the nations is a very sober and startling thought.

In fact, Revelation tells us that He will “smite the nations” with the “fierce wrath of God” (Rev. 19:15). The day Jesus Christ comes in all of His glory back to this earth will not be a good news day for the nations of the world. Jesus said, “all the tribes of the earth will mourn” as they see His coming (Matt. 24:30).

One of the first things Jesus Christ will do when He comes again is judge all the nations (Matt. 25:31-32). This will be a startling moment.

REVELATORY FACT #12 – The Holy One will shatter the mountains. **3:6c**

As we have brought out on many occasions, when Jesus Christ judges He will move and remove mountains literally. We know in Revelation 6:14 that He will move mountains and islands out of their place and we know from Revelation 16:20 that eventually He will display His power as God by shattering every mountain.

Had the disciples and had Israel recognized who Jesus Christ was the first time He was here, He told them if they would have had just a little faith, those mountains could have been removed at His first coming (i.e. Matt. 17:20). But of course they did not believe who He was, so He will do this at His second coming. He will shatter the mountains.

REVELATORY FACT #13 – The Holy One will collapse the ancient hills. **3:6d**

Again Jesus Christ is going to display His Divine power by literally doing things to the ancient hills.

Now the first reference in the Bible to the “perpetual or everlasting hill” is in Genesis 49:26 in reference to the blessings that Israel was pronouncing on His sons, specifically Joseph (Deut.33:13-15). In Isaiah, it is predicted that Jesus Christ will be exalted and worshipped above the hills (Is. 2:2). So what I understand all of this hill business to mean is that Jesus Christ will be exalted and worshipped and all Israel and all tribes of Israel will be in harmony in their worship of Him as their Messiah.

Notice how **verse 6** ends, His ways are everlasting. Now why bring that up? Because He does not forget about promises He made to Israel. He does not forget about promises He made to the Church.

REVELATORY FACT #14 – The Anti-Israeli Ethiopians and Arabs who live in their tents will be trembling. **3:7**

Now Cushan (Ethiopia) and Midian (Arabs) are two groups who will play a prophetic role during the days of the Tribulation and the days of the Antichrist (Dan. 11:43). These two groups will shudder for the things they have done against Israel, because when Jesus Christ returns the game is over.

God’s people don’t have to worry about those Muslim Arabs or any other ethnic group. Israel can rest in the fact that Jesus Christ will come back and destroy them all. Those ethnic groups who hated Israel and hated Him will be shaking in their boots when He returns.