

Until the Earth is Filled with His Glory 1

Habakkuk 2:14 - For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Who is Habakkuk?

- Old Testament prophet
- Lived in Southern Kingdom of Judah
- Possibly a Levitical singer at the Temple
- Name means “to embrace or hug”
- Rabbinic tradition says that he was the son of the Shunammite woman

When Did He Prophesy?

- Years: around 626-605 BC
- What was going on at the time?
 - Israel and Judah, battling each other for decades, are surrounded by much larger empires
 - To their south lies the powerful kingdom of Egypt
 - To their north and east, the Assyrian Empire has arisen, becoming the dominant power in the world... eventually invading and overthrowing Israel
 - And now a new upstart empire, the Babylonians, begins to get notice
 - And what about their spiritual condition?
 - Spiritually, Israel and Judah had fallen far from God
 - Israel was by far the worse of the two, which is why God allowed Assyria to invade
 - Judah had a mixture of godly kings and very ungodly kings
 - Overall there is a general rebellion and stubbornness - pagan idolatry, human sacrifice, temple prostitution, injustice, corruption, cruelty, violence...
 - Around this time (maybe because of Habakkuk’s message), King Josiah of Judah begins the most widespread reforms ever seen in the nation
 - But it’s too little, too late

Leading up to Habakkuk 2:14

- Habakkuk’s Complaint (Habakkuk 1:1-4)
 - Habakkuk 1:2-4 – 2 O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will not save? 3 Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. 4 So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted.
- God’s Response (Habakkuk 1:5-11)
 - Habakkuk 1:5-6 - 5 Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told. 6 For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, who march through the breadth of the earth, to seize dwellings not their own.
- Habakkuk’s Reply (Habakkuk 1:12-17)
 - Habakkuk tells God he doesn’t like his plan
- God’s Answer (Habakkuk 2)
 - Habakkuk 2:2-3 - 2 And the Lord answered me: “Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it. 3 For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end – it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.”
 - We have 2 incredible promises:
 - Habakkuk 2:4 - Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.

- Habakkuk 2:14 - For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.
- Closing Remarks
 - Habakkuk responds with the only appropriate response, worshiping God

Habakkuk 2:14 - For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

- New Living Translation: For as the waters fill the sea, the earth will be filled with an awareness of the glory of the LORD.
- New English Translation: Recognition of the Lord’s sovereign majesty will fill the earth
- Quote: Adam Clarke – “The earth cannot perish till every continent, island, and inhabitant, is illuminated with the light of the Gospel.”
- Quote: Pulpit Commentary - All the earth is to be filled with, and to recognize, the glory of God as manifested in the overthrow of ungodliness

This Promise is Repeated Throughout the Bible

- Numbers 14:21-23 - 21 But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord, 22 none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, 23 shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it.
- Psalm 57:5 - Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!
- Psalm 72:18-19 - 18 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. 19 Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen!
- Psalm 97:6-7 – 6 The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory. 7 All worshipers of images are put to shame, who make their boast in worthless idols; worship him, all you gods!
- Psalm 108:5 - Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!
- John 12:41 – Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him.
- Isaiah 6:1-3 – 1 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”
- Isaiah 11:9 - They shall not hurt or 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 24:14-16 - 14 They lift up their voices, they sing for joy; over the majesty of the Lord they shout from the west. 15 Therefore in the east give glory to the Lord; in the coastlands of the sea, give glory to the name of the Lord, the God of Israel. 16 From the ends of the earth we hear songs of praise, of glory to the Righteous One. But I say, “I waste away, I waste away. Woe is me! For the traitors have betrayed, with betrayal the traitors have betrayed.”
- Isaiah 40:3-5 - 3 A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”
- Isaiah 59:19 - So they shall fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun; for he will come like a rushing stream, which the wind of the Lord drives.

Titus 2:11-14 - 11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.