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### Looking Back to Look Forward

I. Habakkuk remembers.

A. The promises all the way from Abraham, even to Adam.

“[T]he entire chapter is united by its implicit and explicit references to the historical complex of Exodus – Sinai – Conquest.” (Baker, 2)

“O Lord, I have heard the report of you, and your work, O Lord, do I fear. In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy.” [v. 2]

B. Back to Mount Sinai

“God came from Teman, and the Holy One from Mount Paran. His splendor covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise. His brightness was like the light; rays flashed from His hand; and there He veiled his power...He stood and measured the earth; He looked and shook the nations; then the eternal mountains were scattered; the everlasting hills sank low. His were the everlasting ways.” [v. 3–4, 6]

“The mountains saw you and writhed; the raging waters swept on; the deep gave forth its voice; it lifted its hands on high.” [v. 10]

“Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder.” [Ex. 19:18–19]

C. Back to The Exodus.

“Before Him went pestilence, and plague followed at His heels.” [v. 5]

“Was your wrath against the rivers, O Lord? Was your anger against the rivers, or your indignation against the sea, when you rode on your horses, on your chariot of salvation? You stripped the sheath from your bow, calling for many arrows. Selah. You split the earth with rivers.” [v. 8–9]

“When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you, they were afraid; indeed, the deep trembled. The clouds poured out water; the skies gave forth thunder; your arrows flashed on every side. The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lighted up the world; the earth trembled and shook. Your way was through the sea, your path through the great waters; yet your footprints were unseen. You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.” [Psalm 77:16–20]

“You pierced with his own arrows the heads of his warriors, who came like a whirlwind to scatter me, rejoicing as if to devour the poor in secret. You trampled the sea with your horses, the surging of mighty waters.” [v. 14–15]

D. Back to the victories in The Promised Land.

“I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction; the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble.” [v. 7]

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“The sun and moon stood still in their place at the light of your arrows as they sped, at the flash of your glittering spear. You marched through the earth in fury; you threshed the nations in anger.” [v. 11–12]

“At that time Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD gave the Amorites over to the sons of Israel, and He said in the sight of Israel, ‘Sun, stand still at Gibeon, and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.’ And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies.” [Joshua 10:12–13a]

II. Habakkuk looked forward.

A. To utter destruction.

“I hear, and my body trembles; my lips quiver at the sound; rottenness enters into my bones; my legs tremble beneath me. Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble to come upon people who invade us. Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls.” [v. 16–17]

B. To God's mercy.

“Habakkuk's assurance does not rest in visible yet temporal blessings, but rather in an unshakeable relationship with his Covenant God” (Baker, 1)

“Are you not from everlasting, O Lord my God, my Holy One? We shall not die. O Lord, you have ordained them as a judgment, and you, O Rock, have established them for reproof.” [Hab. 2:12]

“Yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength; He makes my feet like the deer's; He makes me tread on my high places.” [v. 18–19]

“Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, ‘Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land that the Lord has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it. It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.’” [Deut. 31:7–8]

C. To God's Glory

“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.” [Hab. 2:14]

III. We wait with Habakkuk.

A. For God's Champion who saves us from ultimate destruction.

1. Whose hands flash a ray of His glory in His nail-scarred hands.

“His brightness was like the light; rays flashed from His hand; and there He veiled His power.” [v. 4]

“Eight days later, His disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’”

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Then He said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.' Thomas answered Him, 'My Lord and my God!'" [John 20:26–28]

"And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain." [Rev. 5:6a]

2. Who has beaten the final foe.

"You went out for the salvation of your people, for the salvation of your anointed. You crushed the head of the house of the wicked, laying him bare from thigh to neck. Selah. You pierced with his own arrows the heads of his warriors, who came like a whirlwind to scatter me, rejoicing as if to devour the poor in secret." [v. 13–14]

"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." [Gen. 3:15]

3. Who will come again.

"And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire." [Rev. 20:9–14]

4. Who gives us peace.

a) Peace to say with Habakkuk, "yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength; He makes my feet like the deer's; He makes me tread on my high places." [v. 18–19]

b) Peace to say with Paul, "The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." [Phil. 4:5a–7]

B. To God's Promise Keeper, who brings us God's mercy.

"Walking by faith is performed when we finally trust God's mercy, goodness, and power to act in our best behalf and to wait for Him to act according to His plans for us and not according to our wants. When we do this, we will learn, as did Habakkuk, that God's goodness "spreads like the waters cover the sea." (Habakkuk. 2: 14). (Henderson, 1)

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“For all the promises of God find their Yes in [Jesus]. That is why it is through Him that we utter our Amen to God for His glory.” [2 Cor. 1:20]

“When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ ‘O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?’ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. [1 Cor. 15:54–57]

IV. We rest with Habakkuk.

“Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble to come upon people who invade us.” [v. 16b]

- A. We remember and we rest.
- B. We look forward and we rest.

“‘Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.’” [Rev. 15:3b–4]

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