



"We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ."

Col 1:28

"Who Will Contend with the Almighty?"

Habakkuk 3:8-15

Aug. 9, 2026

Hab 3:8-15

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?

9 Your bow was made bare, The rods of chastisement were sworn. Selah. You cleaved the earth with rivers.

10 The mountains saw You and quaked; The downpour of waters swept by. The deep uttered forth its voice, It lifted high its hands.

11 Sun and moon stood in their places; They went away at the light of Your arrows, At the radiance of Your gleaming spear.

12 In indignation You marched through the earth; In anger You trampled the nations.

13 You went forth for the salvation of Your people, For the salvation of Your anointed. You struck the head of the house of the evil To lay him open from thigh to neck. Selah.

14 You pierced with his own spears The head of his throngs. They stormed in to scatter us; Their exultation was like those Who devour the oppressed in secret.

15 You trampled on the sea with Your horses, On the surge of many waters.

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?

2 Lord, I have heard the report about You and I fear. O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years, In the midst of the years make it known; In wrath remember mercy.

- Keep in mind that this is a song-prayer.
- It has been slowly building intensity in this chapter and will reach its crescendo at the end of it.
- Habakkuk will rehearse great events where God has demonstrated His wrath and greatness.

I. God is over the rivers and the seas.

- Habakkuk asks 3 questions.
- God does not get angry at His creation, so the answer to all 3 questions is "No."
- God uses His creation to demonstrate His wrath against sinful, evil man.
- This verse is a reference to 2 events: 1. Moses turning the Nile river into blood in Egypt. (Ex. 7:14-25) 2. The crossing of the Red Sea by Israel and then the drowning of the ungodly Egyptian army. (Ex. 14:21-30)
- Those horses and chariots were under the sovereign control of God and drove the believers in Israel to safety but at the same time destroyed the enemies of God.
- **Note:** Ex. 14:30 – "saved Israel" God saved Israel but destroyed its enemies.

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II. God is over man's weapons.

- When God decides to use a bow, the arrows (rods) are described as tools that "have sworn allegiance" to accomplish what God wills. They have received a commission that they promise to uphold.
- God uses the military weapons of the world to accomplish what He desires. Missiles, drones, tanks, guns, are all under the sovereign direction of God.
- **"Selah"** - שְׁלֵחַ **Celah** (seh'-law) - a rest in music, a pause, to stop and think about it, let it sink in, to weigh.
- God "cut" the rivers into existence – where they are located and their design.

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III. God is over the mountains, **the rain**, and the waves.

Gen 7:4

4 "For after seven more days, I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights; and I will blot out from the face of the land every living thing that I have made."

Ezek 38:22-23

22 "With pestilence and with blood I will enter into judgment with him; and I will rain on him and on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, a torrential rain, with hailstones, fire and brimstone.

23 "I will magnify Myself, sanctify Myself, and make Myself known in the sight of many nations; and they will know that I am the Lord."

Job 9:8

Who alone stretches out the heavens
And tramples down the waves of the sea;

Jer 31:35

35 This is what the Lord says,

he who appoints the sun

to shine by day,

who decrees the moon and stars

to shine by night,

who stirs up the sea

so that its waves roar —

the Lord Almighty is his name:

10 The mountains saw You and quaked; The downpour of waters swept by. The deep uttered forth its voice, It lifted high its hands.

III. God is over the **mountains**, the rain, and the waves.

- At the presence of God, the mountains shake.

Ex 19:18

18 Now Mount Sinai was all in smoke because the Lord descended upon it in fire; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked violently.

Ps 18:7

7 Then the earth shook and quaked;

And the foundations of the mountains were trembling

And were shaken, because He was angry.

Nah 1:5

5 Mountains quake because of Him

And the hills dissolve;

Indeed the earth is upheaved by His presence,

The world and all the inhabitants in it.

Zech 14:4

4 In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south.

10 The mountains saw You and quaked; The downpour of waters swept by. The deep uttered forth its voice, It lifted high its hands.

III. God is over the mountains, the rain, and **the waves**.

Ps 93:4

4 The Lord on high is mightier

Than the noise of many waters,

Than the mighty waves of the sea.

Ps 89:9

9 You rule the swelling of the sea;

When its waves rise, You still them.

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IV. God is over the sun, moon, and lightning.

- Just think about the power God has over these celestial bodies.

Josh 10:12-13

12 Then Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel,

"O sun, stand still at Gibeon,
And O moon in the valley of Aijalon."

13 So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped,

Until the nation avenged themselves of their enemies.

Is it not written in the book of Jashar? And the sun stopped in the middle of the sky and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day.

14 There was no day like that before it or after it, when the Lord listened to the voice of a man; for the Lord fought for Israel.

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IV. God is over the sun, moon, and lightning.

- Lightning is described here as “arrows” and a “spear.”

Job 36:32

32 "He covers His hands with the lightning,
And commands it to strike the mark.

Job 37:2-3

2 "Listen closely to the thunder of His voice,

And the rumbling that goes out from His mouth.

3 "Under the whole heaven He lets it loose,
And His lightning to the ends of the earth.

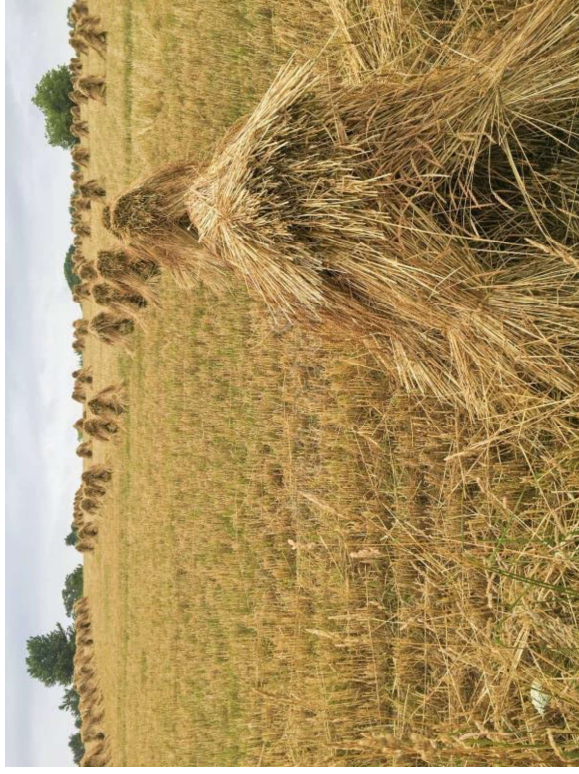
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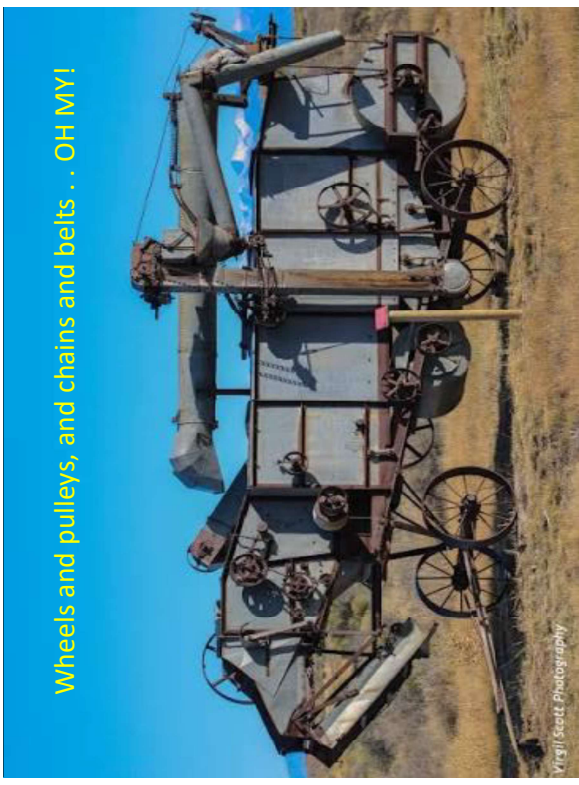
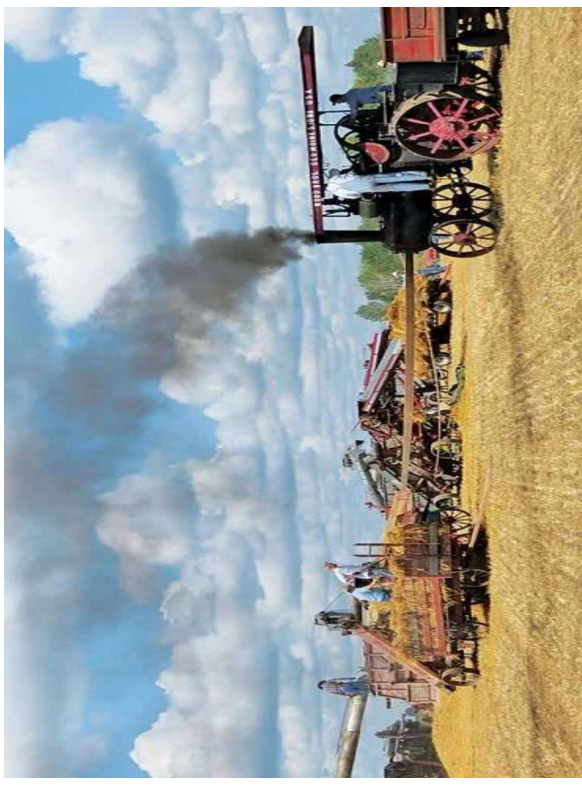
V. God is over the nations.

“**indignation**” - זַהַרְזָהּ **za`am** (zah'-am) - intense anger or wrath. Used to describe God's wrath being poured out during the Tribulation (Dan 11:36).

“**trampled**” - דוּשׁ **duwsh** (doosh) - to thresh, to tread down, to crush.

- God “threshes” the nations.





Wheels and pulleys, and chains and belts . . OH MY!



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VI. God is over evil national leaders.

- God fights for His people.
- Habakkuk uses graphic imagery to describe the work of God in defending His people.
- God destroys Israel's enemies as thoroughly as when someone filets a body from top to bottom. (Pharaoh, Goliath, Ahab, Haman, Belshazzar, Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, to name a few.)
- Think about it.

14 You pierced with his own spears The head of his throngs. They stormed in to scatter us; Their exultation was like those Who devour the oppressed in secret.

VII. God is over the invasion of His enemies.

- God used the weapons of the enemy to kill their leaders who controlled a massive army.
- The enemies invaded Israel to scatter Israel and to rejoice in their dominant victory.

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VIII. God is over the surge.

- God is pictured as riding on the Red Sea when He parted it.
- It was as though He rode on horses that caused the water to surge upward on both sides, allowing Israel to cross over.
- God is always in control - rivers, sea, mountains, waves of the sea, sun, moon, lightning, nations, weapons - because He is the Almighty over all and who will contend with Him?

Application

“Who Will Contend With The Almighty?”