

# Habakkuk 3:3-16

Habakkuk 3:3 – “God came from Teman,  
and the Holy One from Mount Paran.

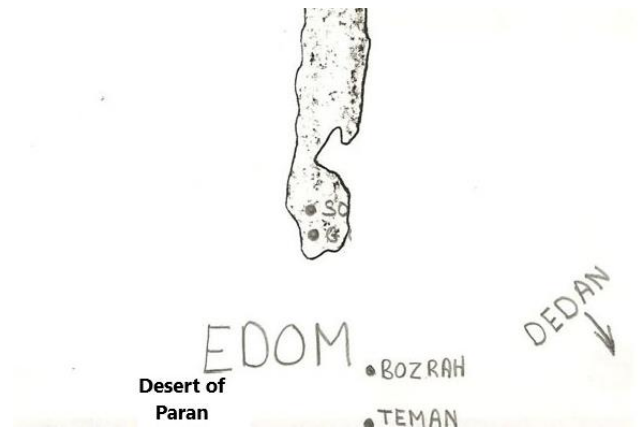
*Selah*

His splendor covered the heavens,  
and the earth was full of his praise.

3680 [e] kis·sāh	5542 [e] se·lāh;	6290 [e] pā·rān	2022 [e] mê·har-	6918 [e] wə·qā·dō·wōš	935 [e] yā·bō·w,	8487 [e] mit·tê·mān	433 [e] 'ē·lō·w·ha
כָּסָה	סֵלָה	פָּאֲרָן	מִהַר־	וּקְדוֹשׁ	יָבֹא	מִתֵּימָן	אֱלֹהִים 3
Covered	Selah	Paran	from Mount	and the Holy one	came	from Teman	God
V-Piel-Perf-3ms	Interjection	N-proper-fs	Prep-m   N-msc	Conj-w   Adj-ms	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms	Prep-m   N-fs	N-ms

776 [e] hā·'ā·reš.	4390 [e] mā·le·'āh	8416 [e] ū·tə·hil·lā·tōw	1935 [e] hō·w·dōw,	8064 [e] šā·ma·yim
הָאָרֶץ:	מְלֵאָה	וּתְהַלְתּוּ	הוֹדוּ	שָׁמַיִם
of the earth	was full	and His praise	His glory	the heavens
Art   N-fs	V-Qal-Perf-3fs	Conj-w   N-fsc   3ms	N-msc   3ms	N-mp

1. “God” is called Eloah here in the Hebrew.
  - a. This is an ancient form of the word for “God”
  - b. Used 41 times in Job and only 16 other times in the OT.
  - c. When Habakkuk speaks to God in 3:8 he calls him Yahweh
  - d. At the end of ch. 3 Habakkuk addresses God as “Yahweh Adonai” (3:19) to express his full submission to God by adding Adonai (“lord”, “master”) to the personal name of God.
2. “Came” is the focus of this chapter. This is “coming of the Lord” is what Habakkuk has been wanting and now must continue to wait for. But, when the Lord does “come” this is what it will be like.
  - a. Habakkuk 2:3 – “...though it tarry wait for it because it will surely come and it will not tarry.”
3. Teman is in Edom southern Edom.
  - a. The Lord is recognized as beginning his approach from a place on earth instead of heaven above.
  - b. Habakkuk traces the Lord’s movement from Mt. Sinai through Edom (Teman) into the land of Judah to Jerusalem.
4. Paran is a mountain in the Desert of Paran west of Teman on the other side of the valley that connects the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Aqaba.



5. God being identified as “Holy One” is crucial concerning he is first coming in judgment on the house of Judah before he ultimately comes to judge the nations.
6. “Selah” had a liturgical function relating to the music or the prayer in the Temple.
  - a. It may mean that the music was to continue to play, while the worshippers paused from singing to think about the words they had just sung.
  - b. It does indicate something that took place either in the music, the singing, the prayer or among the worshippers.
7. This is similar to Deuteronomy 33:2-4
  - a. Paran is a reference to Mount Sinai even though Mount Sinai was to the south of the desert of Paran.
  - b. Mount Paran may be east of the desert of Paran in the cliffs west of the gulf of Aqabah
  - c. Mount Paran is only mentioned in Deuteronomy 33 and Habakkuk 3:3.
8. “Splendor” or “glory” refers to kingly authority
9. “Full” or “covered” – *kissah* – means to extend over a surface to permeate or to conceal
  - a. Habakkuk 2:14 uses the same word to say, “For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.”
10. First the glory covers the heavens and then fills the earth
11. Isaiah 63:1

**3:4 His brightness was like the light;  
rays flashed from his hand;  
and there he veiled his power.**

	3027 [e]	7161 [e]	1961 [e]	216 [e]	5051 [e]
lōw;	mī-yā-dōw	qar-na-yim	tih-yeh,	kā-'ō-wr	wə-nō-ḡah
לֹו	מִיָּדָו	קַרְנַיִם	תִּהְיֶה	כְּאוֹר	וְנֹגַהּ 4
His	from hand	He had rays [flashing]	was	like the light	And [His] brightness
Prep   3ms	Prep-m   N-fsc   3ms	N-fd	V-Qal-Imperf-3fs	Prep-k, Art   N-cs	Conj-w   N-fs

	5797 [e]	2253 [e]	8033 [e]
	'uz-zōh	ḥeb-yō-wn	wə-šām
	עֲזָה:	חֲבִיּוֹן	וְשָׁם
	His power	hidden	and there [was]
	N-msc   3ms	N-msc	Conj-w   Adv

1. “Brightness” or “radiance” was like “light” or “sun light”
2. “rays flashed” or “he had rays flashing” is from the word *qeren* /keh-ren/ which means “a horn”
3. The rest of his “power” was “veiled” or “hidden”:
  - a. “veiled” or “hidden” is from the word *chebyon* /kheb-yone/ meaning “a hiding” or “a hiding place”
  - b. “power” is *uzzoh* meaning “strength”, “might”
4. All that was visible was the Lord’s manifestation as bright light and flashing rays. But, much more was there. The result of his manifested presence in the earth is seen in the next verse.

5. The Lord appears on Mount Sinai in Exodus 20:14-25

**3:5 Before him went pestilence,  
and plague followed at his heels.**

7272 [e]	7565 [e]	3318 [e]	1698 [e]	1980 [e]	6440 [e]
lə·raḡ·lāw.	re·šep	wə·yê·šê	dā·ber;	yê·lek	lə·pā·nāw
לְרַגְלָיו:	רֶשֶׁף	וַיִּצְאָ	דָּבַר	יָלַךְ	לְפָנָיו 5
at His feet	fever	and followed	pestilence	went	Before Him
Prep-I   N-fdc   3ms	N-ms	Conj-w   V-Qal-ConjImperf-3ms	N-ms	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms	Prep-I   N-cpc   3ms

1. As the Lord moved through the earth manifest as light rays his presence:
  - a. Burns up what is before him as a “pestilence”
    - i. “pestilence” is from deber
  - b. Leaves charged remains behind him as he moves.
2. It is possible these are the result of his holiness moving through the fallen, rebellious world
3. Also, “pestilence” could be considered the shieldbearer or courier going before the Lord and the plague his servant who follows him. This is the way powerful individuals in the ancient Near East would travel – with shieldbearer in front and servants behind their presence.

**3:6 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.**

1. Similar to:
  - a. Judges 5:1-5
  - b. Psalm 68
  - c. Isaiah 64:1-4
  - d. Nahum 1:2-6
  - e. Zechariah 14:3-10
  - f. Revelation 6:12-17
    - i. Rev. 8:4-5
    - ii. Rev. 11:11-19
    - iii. Rev. 16:17-21

**3:7 I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction;  
the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble.**

1. When God moves like this the nations are always at risk.

**3:8 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?**

**3:9 You stripped the sheath from your bow,  
calling for many arrows.**

***Selah***

**You split the earth with rivers.**

**3:10 The mountains saw you and writhed;  
the raging waters swept on;  
the deep gave forth its voice;  
it lifted its hands on high.**

**3:11 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.**

**3:12 You marched through the earth in fury;  
you threshed the nations in anger.**

**3:13 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***

**3:14 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.**

**3:15 You trampled the sea with your horses,  
the surging of mighty waters.**

**3:16 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.**