

Habakkuk 2:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Analysis

Amidst woe oracles against Babylon, God promises ultimate restoration: 'For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea' (ki-timale ha'aretz lade'ath eth-kevod Yahweh kammayim yal-yam yekhassu). This is one of Scripture's most magnificent promises. 'The earth shall be filled' (timale ha'aretz)—complete, comprehensive saturation. 'With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD' (lade'ath eth-kevod Yahweh)—not mere intellectual knowledge but experiential knowing of God's manifest glory. The comparison 'as waters cover the sea' (kammayim yal-yam yekhassu) suggests absolute, universal coverage—just as water comprehensively fills and covers the sea, knowledge of God's glory will fill the earth. This promise looks beyond immediate judgment to ultimate redemption when God's glory universally revealed. It anticipates Christ's kingdom, the Great Commission's fulfillment, and ultimately the New Creation where God's presence fills all in all.

Historical Context

This verse echoes Isaiah 11:9, suggesting common prophetic vision of Messiah's kingdom. The 'knowledge of the LORD' promised here contrasts with the ignorance, idolatry, and rebellion characterizing current age. Though Babylon seemed to dominate Habakkuk's world, God promises a future when His glory, not human empires, fills the earth. This was partially fulfilled through Israel's return from exile, more substantially through Christ's first advent and gospel spread, and will be consummated at Christ's return when 'every knee shall bow' (Philippians

2:10-11) and God is 'all in all' (1 Corinthians 15:28). The promise sustained believers through exile and continues to encourage the church through trials—present suffering is temporary; coming glory is eternal and universal.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does this promise of universal knowledge of God's glory provide hope during periods of judgment and suffering?
2. In what ways has this prophecy begun fulfillment through Christ and the gospel, and how will it be consummated at His return?
3. What does 'knowledge of the glory of the LORD' mean practically—how will this manifest when fully realized?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	תִמָּלֵא	הָאֶרֶץ	לִדְעַת	אֶת	כְּבוֹד
H3588	shall be filled	For the earth	with the knowledge	H853	of the glory
	H4390	H776	H3045		H3519
יְהוָה	כַּמַּיִם	יִכְסֹוּ	עַל	יָם:	
of the LORD	as the waters	cover	H5921	the sea	
H3068	H4325	H3680		H3220	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 11:9 (References Lord): They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Psalms 22:27 (References Lord): All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.

Psalms 72:19 (Glory): And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory; Amen, and Amen.

Isaiah 6:3 (Glory): And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Psalms 86:9 (References Lord): All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name.

Revelation 11:15 (References Lord): And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 15:4 (References Lord): Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.