

Habakkuk 3:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou didst walk through the sea with thine horses, through the heap of great waters.

Analysis

Thou didst walk through the sea with thine horses, through the heap of great waters (סוֹסֶיךָ חִמְרָ מַיִם רַבִּים/ darakhta vayyam susekha chomer mayim rabbim)—God strides through the sea with His horses, trampling massive waters. This directly recalls the Red Sea crossing (Exodus 14-15), where God delivered Israel by dividing waters. The imagery portrays God as Warrior-King riding through the sea in triumph, waters foaming (חִמְרָ/chomer, heap/foam) under divine horses' hooves.

This verse climaxes Habakkuk's recollection of salvation history. Beginning with theophany (v.3-7), recounting cosmic disturbances (v.8-11), divine judgment (v.12-14), the prophet concludes with exodus—the definitive saving act establishing Israel as God's people. By rehearsing this history, Habakkuk anchors faith: the God who accomplished the impossible at the Red Sea can preserve His people through coming Babylonian judgment.

Historical Context

The exodus became Israel's paradigmatic salvation narrative, referenced throughout Scripture as proof of God's power and faithfulness. Prophets regularly invoked exodus imagery when promising future deliverance (Isaiah 43:16-19, 51:9-11). The Red Sea crossing demonstrated God's absolute sovereignty: He controls nature, defeats powerful enemies, and saves His people when all seems lost. For Jews facing exile, exodus memory provided hope—if God delivered from

mighty Egypt, He could deliver from mighty Babylon. The New Testament applies exodus typology to Christ: believers have experienced a greater exodus through Jesus, delivered from slavery to sin through His death and resurrection (1 Corinthians 5:7, 10:1-4).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the exodus function as the foundational model for understanding God's salvation throughout Scripture?
2. In what ways does Jesus Christ accomplish a greater exodus, delivering believers from slavery to sin?
3. How can rehearsing God's past acts of deliverance strengthen faith when facing seemingly impossible circumstances?

Interlinear Text

תָּבַח כָּתָּ	בַּיָּם	סוּסֵי יְיָ	חֶמְרָה	מַיִם
Thou didst walk	through the sea	with thine horses	through the heap	waters
H1869	H3220	H5483	H2563	H4325
גְּבוּרָה:				
of great				
H7227				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 77:19 (Parallel theme): Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known.

Habakkuk 3:8 (Parallel theme): Was the LORD displeased against the rivers? was thine anger against the rivers? was thy wrath against the sea, that thou didst ride upon thine horses and thy chariots of salvation?

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