

Hence, "deeds of the law" includes the 10 Commandments, the 603 civil, moral, and religious laws, the corrupted doctrines associated with Israel's vain, religious system, AND the law-system as a whole! (That is, even operating under Israel's law-system program is excluded as being able to justify one unto eternal life!)

- This would include such things as the observance of holydays, baptisms, sabbath days, 'touch not, taste not, handle not' etc.

- By standardizing [ergon] in Rom.3:27 & 28 to both read "works" the full force of Paul's first proof of how God's justice operates in justifying someone unto eternal life is not only obscured, but undermined by leaving the door open to submit some kind of "deed" to be held up for God's acceptance, even apart from the actual 'works' of the law!

Romans 3:29-30

29 *Is he* the God of the Jews only? *is he* not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also:

30 Seeing *it is* one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.

3:29 SUMMARY COMMENT:

Paul presents the LEGAL FORCE upon which the court of God's justice operates in verse 28 in a simple yet profoundly powerful statement: that God can only justify a person unto eternal life "by faith" alone, without any association with the "deeds of the law."

But now on the basis of this simple statement, the question naturally arises, "Is that legal force of how God's justice operates just true now, at this present time? or is that true ALL the time?"

BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE DISCRIMINATING DIFFERENCES OF THE PREPOSITIONS "BY" AND "THROUGH" IN ROMANS 3:30:

1. PAUL: The UNIQUE apostle. (Rom.1:1)

A. The three designating markers of Paul's apostleship:

DESIGNATOR #1) "a servant of Jesus Christ"

DESIGNATOR #2) "called to be an apostle"

DESIGNATOR #3) "separated unto the gospel of God" (unique to Paul, only!)

2. The divinely authorized and Biblically sanctioned replacement for Judas Iscariot is just as the word of God says it is: Matthias, NOT PAUL!!! (Acts 1:15-2:4)

A. The basic, Biblical facts surrounding the choice of Matthias to succeed Judas Iscariot as the 12th apostle of Israel:

1) Matthias was chosen PRAYERFULLY, and without any attempt to exercise the will of the other 11 in the matter. (Acts 1:15-2:4)

a. To specifically guard AGAINST exercising their own will, the final choice was left rightfully, and Scripturally to the Lord by the casting of lots. (Ac.1:24-26, Num.26:55)

2) Choosing a successor to Judas was divinely appointed necessary next step required at that time. (Mt.19:28; cp. Ac.3:19-21; cp. Mt.18:18-19)

NOTE:

With the establishment of the kingdom soon to be offered (Acts 3:19-21) there would OF NECESSITY need to be a full compliment of apostles to occupy those twelve thrones!

- See Acts 12:1-3 where NO REPLACEMENT is sought out after the death of the apostle James. This indicates that the number was FIXED and not to be added to!

And beyond all this is the fact that Christ had specifically given the apostles OFFICIAL AUTHORITY to act in His absence with Peter as their leader (Mt.16:19; 18:18-19).

3) Candidates for Judas' position were to be men of VERY SPECIFIC and RIGID requirements:

- Among which were the following:

- They had to have companied with Christ and His disciples "all the time" that Christ had ministered on earth, i.e., from the first days of His ministry to the last. (Acts 1:21-22)

- This included in detail, the time that Christ "went in and out among us". (Acts 1:21)

- They had to be baptized with John's Baptism. (Acts 1:22)

- They had to have "followed" and "continued" with Christ. (Mat.19:28; Lk.22:28-29; Jn.15:27)

4) The CONTEXT of Acts 1:26 and 2:4 indicate that God Himself approved the choice!

B. PAUL COULD NOT BE ONE OF THE TWELVE:

1) Paul did not qualify for apostleship among the Twelve.

Paul had not "followed" Christ on earth, had not been baptized with the baptism of John, nor gone "in and out" with the other apostles throughout our Lord's earthly ministry. In fact, he had not even seen Christ until AFTER His ascension (ICor.15:8).

2) Paul's commission was not the same as the Twelve.

(Mt.28:19 and Mk.16:15-16, cp. ICor.1:17)

Paul's commission was uniquely different IN IT'S MESSAGE! He was NOT sent to baptize, but to preach the gospel - and what gospel was he sent to preach? The gospel of Mark 16:16, where "he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved"? or Peter's Pentecostal message of "repent and be baptized everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38)? NO! Paul worked under a different program and different commission than the Twelve.

3) Paul, under the inspiration of God the Holy Spirit declares the Twelve to be a separate and distinct body of apostles.

(ICor.15:5-8; Rom.1:1; 11:13; 15:15-16; Gal.1:1)

Paul identifies the Twelve as a complete and separate entity than himself, and by so doing actually EXCLUDES HIMSELF as one of the Twelve!

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PAUL'S APOSTLESHIP AND THE TWELVE:

The following is a list of some of the main and obvious differences between the apostleship that God gave to Paul, and that which He had given to the 12 apostles.

These differences bring to light the UNIQUENESS of Paul's apostleship as separate and distinct from the 12:

1. THE TWELVE: called to be apostles by the Lord while He was here on the earth. (Mat.10:1-4)
PAUL: called to be an apostle by the unexpected re-appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ from heaven. (Ac.9:1ff; ICor.15:8-10)
2. THE TWELVE: their apostleship was to Israel alone, and then to Israel first, because God's program at that time was with Israel. (Mat.10:5ff; Ac.3:25-26)
PAUL: was commissioned as "the apostle of the Gentiles" and was sent out to the nations, because the program of God now is the "dispensation of the grace of God" for us Gentiles. (Ro.11:13; Eph.3:1-9)
3. THE TWELVE: under their commission, sought to bring the nation Israel to repentance in view of them crucifying their Christ. They indicted them for the crime, but offered them the forgiveness and blessing of God so they could participate in Israel's "at hand" kingdom. (Acts 3:12-26; 5:27-32)
PAUL: under his commission, announced that Israel had fallen, and that God has temporarily set Israel's program aside, and that her fullness and kingdom will not come until after the "fullness of the Gentiles be come in." (Rom.11:11-25)
4. THE TWELVE: announced to Israel that here "last days" were present, and that they lived in the days that all the prophets from Samuel and after had foretold to them. (Acts 2:16-21; 3:24)
PAUL: announced that God is now longsuffering and that He has set Israel and the things on her time-schedule aside, and that the "times and seasons" are not being fulfilled now in this dispensation. (Rom. 2:4; 11:11-25; IThes.5:1-11; IIThes.2:1-7)
5. THE TWELVE: proclaimed to Israel the coming of the "times of refreshing" and the "times of the restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." (Acts 3:19-22)
PAUL: proclaimed "the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began" and was "hid in God" in ages and generations past. (Rom.16:25-27; Eph.3:1-6; Col.1:25-26)
6. THE TWELVE: commissioned and sent to water baptize in connection with the "gospel of the kingdom." (Jn.4:1-2; Mt.28:19-20; Acts 2:38ff)
PAUL: was not sent to water baptize. (ICor.1:17)
7. THE TWELVE: under their commission, operated upon a God-established distinction existing between the Jews and the Gentiles. (Mt.10:5-7; 15:21-28; Acts 3:25-26)
PAUL: under his commission, declares that the "time past" distinction is now done away, and the "middle wall of partition" broken down - God having made "both one." There is now "no difference." (ICor.5:14-19; Eph.2:11-14)
8. THE TWELVE: operated with the Law still in view along with the "rudiments of the world" that it employed. (Mt.5:17-19; 23:1-3)
PAUL: declared to us that God has not put us under the law, but under grace, and that today He is not treating us as children under the law with the "rudiments of the world." (Rom.6:14; Gal.4:1-11; Col.2:8-17)
9. THE TWELVE: commissioned to preach the "gospel of the kingdom" to Israel, and to manifest the 'signs of the kingdom' to them. (Mt.10:1-8)
PAUL: commissioned to preach the "gospel of the grace of God" to the Gentiles, and to manifest signs that confirmed the reality of God having turned from Israel to the Gentiles. (Rom.15:14-19)

10. THE TWELVE: warned Israel of the coming wrath of God on the time-schedule, and were prepared by the Lord to see and also go through the tribulation period. (Mt.24:1-35; Acts 2:14-40; 3:19-23)

PAUL: declares to us the longsuffering of God, and the coming of the Lord for us to gather us together unto Himself, delivering us from the wrath to come. (IThess.1:10; 4:13-5:11)

11. THE TWELVE: preached the "gospel of the kingdom" to Israel for the three years of the Lord's earthly ministry, and during that time they did not understand and appreciate the meaning and significance of Christ's death and resurrection. It was not something they had been given to understand. (Mt.16:21-23; Lk.9:43-45; 18:31-34) Following Christ's resurrection, when He had "opened their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures," they understood the necessity of Christ's sufferings and the benefits received from it, as it pertained to the establishment of Israel's kingdom glory. (Lk.24:25-27, 44-49; Acts 1:1-12; 2:22-36; 3:12-21; 4:8-12)

PAUL: had committed to him the full meaning and significance of the cross of Christ. His message was "the preaching of the cross" proclaiming it in all of its glory as "the power of God, and the wisdom of God." To him was committed the testimony concerning Christ giving Himself "a ransom for all men." Also to Paul was committed the revelation of the "mystery of God's will," and how it will be accomplished through the genius of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. (ICor.1:22-24; ITim.2:1-7; ICor.2:6-8; Eph.1:8-10)

12. THE TWELVE: looked for and preached the earthly inheritance of Israel's covenanted kingdom. (Mt.5:1-12ff; 19:27-30; Acts 3:19-21)

PAUL: in connection with the "mystery of Christ," says to us that our 'citizenship is in heaven,' and that we are seated "togetehr in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." The "vocation" unto which we are called in this present dispensation is in the heavenly places, in accordance with Christ being the head of all principality and power. (Phil.3:20-21; Eph.1:19-23; 2:6)

13. THE TWELVE: only knew of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ after the tribulation period. (Mt.24:15-35; Acts 1:9-12; 3:19-21)

PAUL: as part of the mystery revelation given to him, teaches us about the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for us before the day of His wrath. (ICor.15:50-52; IThess.4:13-5:11)

14. THE TWELVE: functioned in connection with God calling out of Israel a seed, or remnant, to inherit the kingdom. (Mt.16:13-20; 21:33-45; Lk.12:32)

PAUL: functioned as "the apostle of the Gentiles," in connection with God having set Israel's program in abeyance and having put Jew and Gentile on the same level for "to make in himself of twain one new man," the "new creation," the church the body of Christ. (Eph.2:11-3:12)

15. THE TWELVE: commissioned in their apostleship to bring Israel's rebelliousness to a head, and in so doing vindicate the outpouring of God's wrath upon that generation. (Mt.23:29-36; Lk.11:45-51)

PAUL: commissioned to proclaim that God is now longsuffering and is extending mercy and grace to all, even in spite of Israel's climactic rebelliousness and ripeness for the "day of the LORD." (Rom.11:28-36)

16. THE TWELVE: looked forward to dealing with the Gentiles through Israel's regeneration and glory. (Mt.28:16-20; Mk.7:24-27; Lk.24:44-49; Acts 1:1-8; 3:25-26)

PAUL: was commissioned by God and sent to us Gentiles in connection with Israel's stumbling an fall, and God's blinding of the nation. (Rom.11:1-25)

17. THE TWELVE: in their call and commission, were fulfilling the prophets and were sent to Israel in accordance with God's promise to His nation. (Isa.1:26; 8:16-18; Lk.11:49-51; Jn.17:6-12)

PAUL: was given a gracious apostleship to us Gentiles, not based upon any promise, prophecy, or covenant with us whatsoever. (Rom.1:1-5; Eph.2:11-12; 3:1-9; IITim.1:9-11)

18. THE TWELVE: had the "gospel of the circumcision" committed unto them to proclaim; the good news of Israel's covenanted kingdom and blessings. (Mt.10:6-8; Gal.2:7-8)

PAUL: had the "gospel of the uncircumcision" committed unto him; the good news of God now being longsuffering and having turned to us Gentiles to accomplish a secret purpose with us. (Gal.2:7-8)

- Being in a Friend of God maturity status really is something that one could “glory” in before men. That is one could relish or glory in the grand privilege of being in such as status as the Friend of God so as to put on display godliness and make an impact on the nations of the world for the cause of ones Heavenly Father. - (But “boasting” in this status would be totally out of line!)

- Therefore, once again you have the excellency of the English in your King James Bible. Once again, you have flawless accuracy in paying close attention to context. And once again you can have absolute certainty that the Bible you hold in your hand has flawless accuracy and absolute authority!

Romans 4:1-2

1 *What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?*

2 *For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.*

3 *For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.*

Rom. 4:3 SUMMARY COMMENT:

- Paul now sets forth the core element of this historical precedent evidence: the very record of scripture itself.

“For what saith the scripture (γραφή [graph8])?”

- Paul’s appeal is to the written record of God’s word as recorded in Genesis chapter 15:1-6 (:6).

“Abraham believed (Aor. Act. Ind. πιστεύω [pisteuo] = to be fully persuaded of a thing and hence to believe it; non-meritorious positive volition) God,”

“and it (Abraham’s non-meritorious belief) was counted (Aor. Pass. Ind. λογίζομαι [logizomai] = to put down to his credit, to credit to his account) unto him”

“for righteousness (δικαιοσύνη [dikaiosun8] = in the thinking of the Judge, (God Himself), Abraham’s receiving of the gracious offer of pardon from all his sins, plus the additional imputation of the very righteousness of God based upon a non-meritorious system of perception: BELIEF (or faith) ALONE, the justice of the court is thereby satisfied in light of Abraham’s coming substitute and kinsman redeemer (the Lord Jesus Christ) and therefore the Judge may pronounce the defendant (Abraham) RIGHTEOUS.”

Background to Genesis 15 -

- The 5 major “beginnings” of the book of Genesis:

1. Gen. 1:1-25 = “beginning of the world.”
2. Gen. 1:26-2:25 = “beginning of man.”
3. Gen. 3:1-24 = “beginning of man’s sinfulness and Satan’s ruler ship of the world.”
4. Gen. 4:1-11:32 = “beginning of man’s devolution.”
5. Gen. 12:1-50:26 = “beginning of Israel.”

- In order to have a proper “gist” appreciation for what God is going to do with Abram, you should at the very least have a basic grasp on three major issues that occur between Genesis 4-11 when Satan’s Policy of Evil gets itself underway and then you will naturally understand and see how God is going to deal with that policy of evil.

- Satanic corruptions (or Satan’s successes) and God’s judgments between Genesis 1 & 12:

- Gen. 4 - 1) Cain and Able (Religion)
- Gen. 6-9 - 2) The Flood (Humanism) - (6:5, 11, 12)
- Gen. 11 - 3) The Tower of Babel (Internationalism)

- The 3 most important things to understand so that you clearly understand and appreciate what God purposed and designed to do with Abram, (i.e., Israel):

- 1) God’s original plan and purpose for mankind on this earth.
- 2) Satan’s usurped dominion of Adam and the earth by his Policy of Evil.
- 3) God’s purpose and design to destroy Satan and his PoE and then repossess the earth.

Gen. 12:1 - God separates or SANCTIFIES Abram unto Himself for His useful purpose.

- Note these three items:

- 1) (:1) *"unto a land that I will shew thee:"*
- 2) (:2) *"a great nation/name"*
- 3) (:2) *"and I will bless thee/thou shalt be a blessing"*

- All of which corresponds to three major issues involved with Adam:

- | | |
|---------|-----------------|
| Adam | 1) Greatness |
| and | 2) Special Land |
| Abraham | 3) Blessing |

Gen.12:2 - Note again that "Great" concept:

- Gen.10:6-10 - Satan attempts to produce a great ("mighty") nation [internationalism].
- (The greatness of the human race (a name) under his authority) - see 11:1-4

- Note that in the core of what happens between chapter 12 and 15 you have that battle of Chedorlaomer and up pops Melchizedek (King of Righteousness) the King of Salem (King of Peace).

- Note Gen:14:19 *"the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth"* - this is what the battle is all about!

FURTHER BACKGROUND CONCERNING THE "HORROR OF GREAT DARKNESS" AND THE "SMOKING FURNACE, AND BURNING LAMP" OF GENESIS 15:7-21 (:12, 17).

THE ROUTE OR FLIGHT PATH OF THE LORD'S RETURN.

- Zech. 14 - Describes events at the end of the tribulation period for the remnant of Israel. Zechariah is describing the very thing they are to be looking for just prior to the Lords return.

- (:1-2) - The man of sin's extermination policy goes into effect against the remnant of Israel.

- (:3-4)

- (:5) - "ye" = the remnant that is left from verse 2.

- (:3 again) - *"as when he fought in the day of battle."* (Past tense)
This battle has already been rehearsed in Israel's program!!

- Note that the Lord does not take Israel on a direct route into the land when they came out of Egypt - even though a major highway led directly from Egypt to the land of Canaan!

- He takes Israel on a dress-rehearsal to every battle site that is written in the book of the wars of the Lord. (Num. 21)

- Luke 21 - The Lord is describing to His apostles the events that are going to be going on during the day of wrath.

- (:20-28) - The passage takes you right into what Zech. 14 was talking about.

- (:28) - Israel's Blessed Hope.

- (:25 again) - Note the physical events of the creation that accompany the Lord's return.

- (:26) - Describes a fear that affects bodily functions.

- Note the answer to the question of why the sea and waves are roaring is given - (:26) - *"for the powers of heaven shall be shaken"*

- Therefore something is going to happen in and with the *"powers of heaven"* that cause the physical phenomena and turmoil described here, of the distress and perplexity upon the earth - and we need to get a grasp of what this consists of

- Psalm 18 - Note the superscription: David serves as a type of the remnant of Israel.

- Psa. 18 is a psalm concerning the events surrounding the Lord's 2nd advent return to earth (Israel) at the end of the tribulation period.

- Here, David actually gives Israel to understand in advance that the Lord will take a particular route or path when He does return.
- (:1-7) (:6) - “*temple*” - (Note that the temple hasn’t been built yet! This is referring to the Lord’s temple in the 3rd heaven.)
- (:7) - Note “*earth*” and not “*land*” - This earthquake doesn’t shake a portion of land, in this earthquake the whole earth shakes!
 - Note “*wrath*” (i.e., produced by His wrath)
 - This is not just a local quake when He touches down on the Mount of Olives. This is the whole earth shaking, which gets produced by His wrath.
 - see Rev. 6:14; 16:20
- (:8-9)
- (:10) - The Flight Path
- (:11-12) - Note the similarity to what God gives Abram to see back in Genesis 15.
- So, why are the seas “*roaring*?”
- Isa. 2 - Note that Isaiah cycles through the 5th course of Israel’s punishment.
 - (:10-21)
 - (:19 & 21) - Note the term “*terribly*” (2x) = to strike terror/fear in the hearts of men.
 - So, how bad does God shake the earth?
(Next cycle of Isaiah)
- Isa. 13:13 - Now here’s what we’ve got: we’ve got the wrath of God producing physical effects in the heavens which cause the earth to shake terribly - causing the sea and waves to produce heart failure in men - and now it is so bad that the earth gets removed out of her place.
 - So, how bad is the earth “removed?”
(Next cycle of Isaiah)
- Isa. 24:17-20 - (what will the oceans and seas be doing when this event takes place?)
- Job 38 - The mechanical means by which God does it. (How He does it)
 - God explains to Job how it is that he will bring this about.
(Note Job is a picture of the remnant of Israel)
 - (:1-3) - Job has not gotten the “counsel” he needs from his friends. Therefore Job (the remnant) gets God’s counsel concerning the repossession of the earth from the adversary.
 - (:12-15) - “*dayspring*” = the sun!
 - (:13) “*it*” = the dayspring, the sun.
 - (:15) - “*the high arm*” = Satan and his plan of evil
 - This is going to be the last issue when God destroys Satan (Leviathan) and his plan of evil, causing his “high arm” to be broken.
 - But to do this, there is a physical phenomena that needs to be produced in order to achieve it. And it is produced by a power of heaven that does something to the earth (:12-13).
 - Note that the sun is one of those “powers” (or ordinances) of heaven that has an influence on the earth.
 - God is going to utilize the sun for this very thing.
 - And in fact, God has been commanding the sun from the very beginning for this very purpose!
 - In the day in which God breaks the “high arm” of that creature who became Leviathan, He utilizes the sun to take hold of the “*ends of the earth*” and shake the wicked out of it.
- (:31-33) - Constellations - What if these influences are no longer “*sweet*”???
- (:31) - Note: “*bind*” & “*loose the bands*”

- Deut. 32 - Another physical phenomena that the Lord performs at the time of His return.
 - He is going to do something to a particular territory.
 - He is going to open up the very pit to hell itself!

- This is the song of Moses.
- It has to do with the issue of the Lord's day of wrath, and it has to do with the issue of Israel getting themselves into the predicament where the Lord's day of wrath is going to come upon them and the purging of the nation is going to take place - and the avenging of God's cause with Israel is going to occur.
 - Along with all this, you get recorded some of the physical events that accompany this time.

- (:21-22) - The Lord performs this upon His personal return as that man of war - and at a specific spot in the route He takes back into the land of Israel, He does what is described here.
 - The Lord starts a fire on the earth that burns down to hell itself, and He opens up the pit - He opens up hell.

- Isa. 34 - The physical place where this takes place is just south of the land of Israel.

- (:1-2) - You have in view a message concerning not just Israel, but all the nations of the earth - and that message has to do with the armies of the nations of the world that are in opposition to the Lord under the satanic policy of evil during that day - which involves the extermination of the nation Israel, and the actions of the man of sin in direct opposition to God - as well as the final, last-ditch effort of Satan and his plan of evil to hold on to the earth because he has the knowledge of the Son of God coming back to repossess it.
 - The Bible describes (Joel 3) that there is a place where these nations assemble for battle; and this context has to do with the very end of this when the Lord, Himself, comes back to fight with these nations as that "man of war."

- (:3-4) - We saw this (:4) over in Rev. 6:12-17.

- (:5) - Note: "*Idumea*" = He has a particular geographic location in view, but it is not the only place where He is going to fight a battle - but in this passage God is focusing on something that is going to take place in the south-land of Israel, or *Idumea*.

- (:6-8) - The whole Day of the Lord is in view - but you have a particular time at the end describes as (:8) "*the day of the LORD'S vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion.*"
 - In other words, there are some specific nations that have a CONTROVERSY with God about Zion.
 - Remember that *Idumea* is the place of the Edomites - who are they? - they are the descendants of ESAU!
 - This is the BIRTHRIGHT controversy over who owns the land of Israel!

- (:9-10) - There in *Idumea* is where that fire is kindled that is going to burn down to the "*lowest hell.*"
 - And when it burns down to the lowest hell, something is opened up and exposed, and the covering to it is no longer there!

- Isa. 66:15 - Dealing with the exact same time frame.
 - (:16) - In vs.17ff the Lord points out particular ones of apostate Israel that will be also gathered against Him at His return, as well as those Gentile nations as per Satan's policy of evil.

- (:22-24) - Views the whole thing now being over.
 - Describes the fact that there will be a physical, geographical spot where all the flesh of all the nations will have to pass before going into the land of Israel.

- (:24) - They pass the spot where the fire has burned down and opened up the pit.
 - This is designed by God to be a TESTIMONY throughout the period of the Kingdom.

 - This is only 1 of 3 shocking and awesome testimonies the Lord gives the world during the Kingdom, of the consequences of disobedience to Him and His nation:
 - 1) The Open Pit (Isa. 66:24)
 - 2) The Cemetery of Gog/Magog (Ezk. 38-39)
 - 3) The Zoo of Devils and Foul Spirits (Rev.18:1-2)

- Now we will look at the battle plan and flight path the Lord takes when He returns to have His Day of Wrath.
- Num. 21 - Note that before the Lord comes back and returns to Israel as the mighty man of war to have His day of wrath, (and as He deals with Israel's enemies), to do battle in avenging His cause with Israel, He has **already rehearsed** all those battles with the people of Israel!
 - And He has written a book in which all those places and battles have all been specified and written down.
 - Note the context of the passage has to do with the time that the children of Israel came out of the Red Sea and were in route to the border of the land. And Moses tells the children of Israel that they are not just on a site-seeing tour, or just checking out the real estate, or merely tourists - but he gives them to understand that they are going to go to particular places that the Lord has chosen to be battlefields!
- (:1-9) - Note the types and close parallels!
- (:10-13)
- (:14) - "*Wherefore*" = here is the reason for doing all of this; for visiting all these sites.
- (:14-15) - A couple of things have to be kept in mind:
 - the Red Sea crossing and what God did there;
 - the fact that the Lord does not take a direct rout into the land;
 - and the murmuring element in the nation.
- (:14) - Note: "*wars*" (Pl)
 - Note: "*Red Sea*" = a war was fought in the Red Sea!
 - When you trace and study out the places mentioned here, notice it doesn't say that they fought any battles in these places - it just says they went there and departed - they went there and departed, etc., etc. God was taking them to places where He was going to fight battles for them!
- (:13) - Before we leave this passage, go back to :13 and note something of special interest to us. Notice the mention of the "*Amorites*" and compare that to the Genesis 15:16 passage concerning God's covenant with Abram. This is the thread that factors in to the Lord's Day time frame.
- Isa 42 - We are going to back up for a moment and gain some appreciation that when the Lord does physically return He is prepared for battle - that's what He is going to be doing at first!
 - He's going to be prepared for war, and Israel is going to be rehearsed for war!
- (:12-15) (:13) - Note each section, especially "*he shall prevail against **his enemies**.*"
 - Its possible to take this as 'any enemy of Israel is an enemy of mine' (which is true) - but when it says, "*his enemies*" the Lord has got some people in mind that are Israel's enemies for more than just the average nation against nation issue.
- Psalm 83:1-2 - Asaph recognizes that surrounding the land of Israel are some people who not only hate Israel, but hey also hate Israel's God.
 - (:2) - "*lo*" = look at them specifically.
 - Asaph (just as the remnant of Israel will do out in the day of wrath, when they see those enemies take the course of action described later on down in the passage) makes his (their) appeal to God to LOOK and realize that the ones who hate You are taking out their vengeance against You on us!
 - (:3-5)
 - And now he lists them:
 - (:6-8) - Edom = Esau's children: the ones who have the controversy of Zion.
 - Ishmaelites = Abraham's other son.
 - Moab = one of Lot's sons; Abraham's nephew's son.
 - Hagarenes = (Hagar) Ishmael's mother.
 - Gebal = Canaanite sympathizer with the Assyrians.
 - Ammon = Lot's other son.
 - Amalek = the Lord says (Num.) that Amalek was the first of the nations to oppose Israel when they came out of Egypt.
 - Philistines = Canaanite warring sea peoples.

POINT: These are God's enemies - "*they that hate thee*" (:2)!

- (:9) - "*Do unto them*" - Asaph wants what we saw in Zech. 14:3, "*fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle*" - he wants the Lord to do something for them that He had once done before!
- (:10-15) - Sounds like Deut. 32, the Song of Moses.
- (:16-18) - Asaph realizes that out in the Lord's day of wrath when that 10-nation confederacy is put together and these that hate God persecute the nation of Israel and want to exterminate them and wipe their name out so that it is remembered no more - that this is Satan's last-ditch effort to hold on to his usurped position of trying to be "like the most high." (Which is what his plan of evil is all about.)

- P.S. In the day of the Lord, through the man of sin, Satan is going to try to convince (and will be greatly successful with apostate Israel) that he bears that name: Jehovah.

- see Rev. 13:11-14 cp. I Kings 18:25ff (:39)

- Job 38 - Again, God is providing the "*counsel*" Job needs for him to understand and track with God's repossession of the earth - and this counsel has to do with the fact that God's decreed place where He is going to set up His residence on this earth, He has "broken" that territory and waters have come in.

- (:8-11) - (:10 - "*it*" = the sea)
 - (:10 - "*my decreed place*")

- God's territory (Israel) is the place or piece of real estate where He has chosen to reside on the earth and conduct His business. (Just as Jacob was given to see in his "ladder" vision.)

- His "*decreed place*" is actually larger than the land of Canaan in its entirety - or larger than present day Israel.

- But after the Flood took place, God broke that land (His "*decreed place*") up, and He says that He did it "*for it*" (the sea - :8) and set up a defensive perimeter ("*bars and doors*" - :10) and said, in effect, "You can't come any closer."

- Note again, that when you look at a map of the Middle East, there are bodies of water that surround the land of Israel.

Those major bodies of water that surround Israel are a result of this very thing (:10).

- And you need to understand that when that took place **someone** entered into those waters!!!

- Isa. 27:1 - (The major creature)

- (:1) - "*In that day*" = day of the Lord"

- (:1) - "*sea*" = Red Sea

- Leviathan (Satan) took up residence in the Red Sea.

- (Which is the major opening to the Pit)

- Note: This is why, when Jonah is set as a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ, he is tossed overboard and goes down through the SEA! and is swallowed by a whale, and his body is preserved from that sea from seeing "*corruption*"!!!

- Matt. 12:40 - Psa. 16:10 - Jonah 2:6

- Satan took up residence in the Red Sea, but he's not the only creature in the Bible called a "dragon."

- (He's the "great dragon") - but he's got some other "dragons" with him.

- And where do they take up residence???

- Psa. 74 - A Psalm about the misery of the remnant under persecution from the "man of sin", and their praying to God to come and do for them what needs to be done to deliver them.

- (:10) - “adversary” (Singular)
 - “blaspheme by name” (that’s what will be going on in the 5/5)

- (:11-13) (:13) - “sea” (Red Sea)
 - “dragons” (Plural)
 - “waters” (Plural)

- (:14-15) (:15) - “mighty rivers” - Those waters/streams are not “mighty” because they have a large volume of water flowing through them - they are “mighty” because mighty foul spirits (dragons) are dwelling in those waters! (The waters surrounding the land of Israel)

- After the Flood, when God broke up His “decreed place” for the sea, Satan knew from day 1 of creation what that land was all about. And he knew once God had foiled his plan at the Tower of Babel when God confounded the languages and dispersed the people (nationalism), Satan knew that his policy of evil was going to have to make a shift - so Babylon became the “mother of harlots”, and to each one of those nations that developed that had been delivered over to him, Satan assigned one of his foul spirits. (the zoo of Rev.18)

- That’s where those foul spirits came from. Satan posted his foul spirits in those waters surrounding the land of Israel.

- And even before Abraham was called out by God, and before Israel was brought in as His nation, Satan had the Canaanite nations in the land! (Ham’s descendants)

- This becomes a hot bed of Satan’s activity and iniquity to attempt to hold on to that real estate at all costs.

- So he has Canaanites in the land, foul spirits posted in the waters, and he, himself, took up residence in the Red Sea right over the opening to the pit!

- The point is: Satan as that dragon “Leviathan” is in the Red Sea, and his other “dragons” are in the other waters.

- Hence, the Lord is going to dry up their dwelling places and route them out of their favorite dwelling places; effectively destroying their outposts (their outer defensive perimeter).

- Matt. 12:43 - This makes it so they have no place to run and hide!!!

- Num. 21:10-15 - Again, Israel goes to these places because the Lord is going to fight a war at each one of them.
 - Plus, each one has a body of water connected with it.

- First, the Lord dries up the Red Sea and kick Leviathan out into the desert - then He goes to these places and dries up their waters and kicks these dragons out (takes the POW) as Satan attempts to marshal them into an army.

- Num. 10 - Here you are told that every time the children of Israel packed up the tabernacle and moved, they didn’t do it on their own - they did it because God told them to and led them to certain, specific places.

- God directed them by the pillar of fire and the cloud. (They had no say in it at all!)

- But notice **how** God did it - and notice what Moses consistently said to the nation of Israel every time God did this:

- (:33-36) - Every time they moved, and every time that ark went before them to search out a resting place for them, Moses made a prophetic declaration of what this was all about!

- Psalm 68 - The 68th psalm is a psalm of David that appeals for the very thing John appeals for in Rev. 19 - and notice how David appeals for it Cp., Num. 10:35 w/ (:1-4)

- Note that every time Israel “*set forward*” with Moses (Num.10:35) and went to the various places of battle written about in the book of the wars of the LORD, Moses said, as they started out, “*Rise up, LORD, and let thine enemies (those dragons) be scattered; and let them that hate thee (Psa. 83:2) flee before thee.*” Moses made a prophetic declaration that this is a rehearsal.

- And when the Lord Jesus Christ mounts His steed and comes back to this earth, He is going to go to these exact places and those enemies of His and those that hate Him are going to be “*scattered*” and “*flee*” before Him.

- And He’s going to dry up those bodies of water where those foul spirits are, and especially the sea (Red Sea) where Leviathan resides - the one who originated all this opposition!

(Synopsis of the wooden ark):

- Num. 10:33 - This is not the golden ark. - This ark was NOT carried by any priest!

- The ark of gold, with the mercy seat, was to be carried in the midst of the camp and handled only by the Kohathites in the middle of the ranks. (Numbers 3-4)

- The ark of gold was made by the men that the spirit of God filled with wisdom. (Exodus 35 [end] & 36)

- But Moses was told by God to make an ark by himself. An ark of WOOD - a SECOND ark. (Deut. 10:1-5)

- After the golden calf disaster, God tells Moses He will not go in the midst of the camp because if He did, He would destroy them for all their sin and iniquity. (Exo. 32-33)

- But Moses intercedes for the people and beseeches God to go with them.

- God finally says He’ll go, but not in the midst of them - He would go before them with the ark that Moses made.

- The ark of wood that Moses made and the one that led the nation to the battle sites written in the book of the wars of the LORD - the ark with which God led the nation Israel - winds up being seen by John in the book of the Revelation.

- Rev. 11 - Here in the book of the revelation, John sees the temple open in the 3rd heaven, and he sees an ark in it - but he doesn’t see the one that was lost during the Babylonian captivity (and then was re-fabricated)
- John sees the one Moses made - the one that led the camp.
- (:15-19) (:19)

- Rev. 15:1 - (Just prior to the Lord’s return)
- (:2-3) - Note the song of Moses (Deut 32)!
- “*thy works*” and “*thy ways*” = involve those wars!

- (:4-8) (:5) - Note the terminology:
- If you don’t understand the terminology in :5, you will never understand what God did when He gave David the pattern for Solomon to build the temple on.

- (:5) - “*the **temple** of the **tabernacle** of the **testimony** in heaven was opened:*”
- The “**testimony**” is sitting in God’s ark in the “**tabernacle**” and the “**tabernacle**” is surrounded by the “**temple**.”

- When God gave Moses the pattern, He gave him the pattern for the “**tabernacle**” - and when God gave David a pattern, he gave him a pattern for the “**temple**” - and the **temple** surrounds the **tabernacle**.

- And in the midst of the whole thing is a “**testimony**.”

- And sitting in that testimony is the book of the wars of the LORD!

- John sees everything open at that time - and the Lord is going to go in there and He's going to take that book, mount that white horse, conduct an Operations Briefing with Michael who will then send the orders down the angelic chain of command and the Lord tells them, "Follow ME!" - And He comes with His sword "*bathed in heaven*" (Isa.34:5) and fights those wars.

- Habakkuk 3 - Habakkuk is given a vision that includes the very route the Lord is going to take on His return to the earth, and when Habakkuk sees that route and what all the Lord will be doing in His flight path, it causes him to ask a series of questions directly associated with what it is that he sees the Lord doing.

- And what he sees is the Lord doing something to the WATERS at the locations of His battle sites.

- (:1) - Note: This is a PRAYER for Israel to be educated in these things.

- (:2) - What he heard was terrifying news. (Remember Abram's vision in Gen. 15)

- Note: "*remember mercy*" - Habakkuk knows that in that day, if God did not have mercy on His people they would be wiped out too!

(Matt. 24:22) - *And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*

- (:3a) - "*Selah*" = There is some doctrine you already have been given; make sure you know it!

- This issue of where God is coming from is sitting back in Deut. 33 and Isa. 63 (:16).

- This is SOUTH in the land of Israel - in the land of the EDMITES!!!

- Remember in Isa. 34:6, God said He will have a "*great slaughter in the land of Idumea*" for the "*controversy of Zion*" with Israel's old hated enemy.

- When the remnant and people are up in the land of Israel, and when they physically, and actually see the Lord coming towards them, it will be at that point right here in :3.

- They are not going to see Him and what He does in the Red Sea. They catch their first glimpse of Him coming from the SOUTH.
(see Isa. 63:1)

- (:3b-4) (:4) - "*and there was the hiding of his power.*"

- He saves the best of His power to the end; in the valley of Jehoshaphat (Joel 3) **within** the land.

- (:5-9a [Selah]) - "*oaths of the tribes*" = He swore He'd do this to them and for them! And they are told to go back and check it out.

- (:9b-10)

- (:11a) - Was this rehearsed, too? Did this ever happen before?
(Joshua) - He's going to do that again.

- (:11b-13) (:13) - "*the house of the wicked*" = the man of sin.

- (:14-16) - When the Lord dries up the sea, the waters, and the rivers, Habakkuk says he sees His anger against them - now you know why He's doing that: those foul spirits and those dragons are in there and He's routing them out.

- And He continues on this path right up to the Jordan river. And He crosses over at the exact spot where Joshua placed the 12 stones in the river.

His flight path: Red Sea - Edom - Moab - Ammon - Jordan river - then He fulfills the rest of Psalm 68 right on to the Mount of Olives.