

SBC – Oct. 12, 2025
Psalm 83:1-18 (NKJV)
“A Prayer Against Israel’s Enemies”

Psalm 83 (NKJV)
A Song. A Psalm of Asaph.

Asaph was a lead singer and musician in the days of David and Solomon and also was a prophet (1 Chron. 15:17-19; 16:5-7; 25:6; 1 Chron. 25:1; 2 Chron. 29:30). Psalm 50 and Psalms 73–83 are attributed to Asaph so Psalm 83 is his final contribution to the book of Psalms.

Typically, Asaph’s psalms involve a plea for God to deliver His people, city, and temple. On this score, Psalm 83 hits a high note as it is a very pointed imprecatory prayer against the enemies of Israel and an impassioned plea for God to act immediately.

We are unsure of the exact occasion for the writing of this Psalm, but some suggest it may have been during the time of Jehoshaphat, when Judah was invaded by the Moabites, Ammonites, and Edomites (2 Chronicles 20). Certainly, it would seem that there was some literal/historical occasion because of all the specifics named in the Psalm.

However, some believe that the Psalm is also prophetic in that it depicts a last-days attack on Israel by her surrounding neighbors. However, it is very difficult with precision to make a modern-day application to the people groups mentioned because labels and boundaries through the years have changed.

My view is that there is an application to many historical occasions in which there has been a conspiracy on the part of Israel’s enemies to annihilate her, and of course, the last days finale will eventually have the entire world pitted against Israel. So I think there is a broad application to any time a confederacy of peoples is seeking to completely destroy Israel. This is nothing new, and there is more to come.

For example, when Israel became a nation, they were immediately attacked by 7 surrounding nations with the intention of destroying Israel. Again, in 1967, her enemies sought to completely destroy Israel. Six days later, it was over, and Israel was victorious. And on and on. So again, I think there are lots of applications here in terms of principle.

Slide # 1

Psalm 83

“A Prayer Against Israel’s Enemies”

- vv. 1-2 A Plea for God to Help
- vv. 3-4 Plotting to Destroy Israel
- vv. 5-8 The Confederation of Nations Against Israel
- vv. 9-18 A Petition for Divine Judgment

1 Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your peace, And do not be still, O God!

Asaph is desperately calling on God to act. There is urgency! He impassionedly wants God to intervene – NOW!

2 For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; And those who hate You have lifted up their head.

Note he starts out by saying to God that these are “Your enemies” and not merely OUR enemies. They make a tumult or an uproar. It reminds me how the Bible says “the devil walks about like a roaring lion” (1 Pet. 5:8). The roar alone is enough to scare you. This was scary!

And then again, he speaks of these enemies as those who HATE God and that they have lifted up their heads. They are cocky and arrogant – full of themselves. They hate God, and they exalt themselves. These tend to go together! People who think little of God tend to think highly of themselves!

3 They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, And consulted together against Your sheltered ones.

These enemies are shifty; they are shrewd in a diabolical way. They take counsel together against God’s people. Asaph here calls the Jews God’s “sheltered one” meaning God’s protected ones. With the Lord, this is their favored position – God protects them. David reflects this in Psalm 27.

Slide # 2

Psalm 27:5 (NKJV)

5 For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.

As God's people, they historically were sheltered by God. God was their everything. He brought them into being as a nation, He preserved them, He protected them, but now it seems their very existence was in jeopardy.

4 They have said, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, That the name of Israel may be remembered no more."

This reveals the true colors of these people! They were God's enemies, they hate God, and the evidence is that they want to completely destroy Israel from being a nation. They don't simply want victory; they want complete destruction. This is antisemitism to the core! This defines these enemies.

Slide # 3

They are God's enemies.

They hate God.

They hate Israel.

Hating God is reflected in the abuse of His people. These enemies are all about genocide. They want Israel completely destroyed to where they as a people are no more. This was Hitler's position in what he called "The final solution."

They are involved in a broad conspiracy to exterminate the Jewish nation! There have been many such plots through the years. There was Pharaoh, there was Haman, there was Herod, there was Hitler, and there are all manner of Muslim terrorist regimes. There are many examples in history.

But they have one thing in common – they all end in defeat.

In all the annals of recorded history there has never been a people so encircled by foes or as persecuted as the Jews have been. Yet surprisingly, the Jews have prospered. – **James Montgomery Boice**

This is an in-your-face conspiracy against the God of Israel. These people have no fear of the God of the Bible, the God of Israel. Realize how huge a deal this really is.

God's very name is YHWH. This name means He is eternal and unchanging. His character never changes. YHWH is commonly called God's covenant name because He has linked it with the Abrahamic Covenant, which is the mother of all covenants related to Israel.

Slide # 4

Exodus 3:14–15 (NKJV)

14 And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, '**I AM** has sent me to you.' "

15 Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The **LORD** God of your fathers, the **God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob**, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.'

Note the linkage here between I AM, YHWH, and God's Covenant Relationship with Israel as seen in the covenant language of "God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob". Going forward, this combination is what God is to be known by FOREVER!

We need to realize just how strong the promises are in the holy Bible to preserve Israel as a people. He established them (Gen. 12:2) and He has promised to preserve them (cf. Gen. 17:7-8; Ps. 89:34-37).

Slide # 5

Jeremiah 31:35–37 (NKJV)

35 Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for a light by day, The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, And its waves roar (The LORD of hosts is His name):

36 "**If those ordinances depart From before Me**, says the LORD, Then the seed of Israel shall also cease From being a nation before Me forever."

37 Thus says the LORD: "**If heaven above can be measured**, And **the foundations of the earth searched out beneath**, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel For all that they have done, says the LORD.

God here names several IMPOSSIBLE things. It is impossible to stop the sun from shining! It is impossible to measure the universe. It's impossible to search out the foundations of the earth. We have never been to the end of outer space – we have never been to the center of the earth. Impossible.

In the same way it is impossible for God to do away with Israel and not fulfill His covenant promises, in spite of all that they have done. At the end of OT history God says this:

Slide # 6

Malachi 3:6 (NKJV)

6 “For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

God isn’t going anywhere. He doesn’t change! His character doesn’t change! His Word doesn’t change! His covenant promises do not change! His relationship with Israel does not change!

To fly in the face of all this amounts to a full frontal attack on God, and that always spells Disaster with a capital “D”. How did Hitler end up? And he is not alone.

On May 28, 1967, Gamal Abdel Nasser, President of the United Arab Republic, said, “We plan to open a general assault on Israel. This will be total war. Our basic aim is the destruction of Israel.” ...In six days, the war was over. Israel was the undisputed victor.”

– William MacDonald

And so it goes! Some things the world never seems to learn. They learn the hard way, and then they have to learn it again and again.

5 For they have consulted together with one consent; They form a confederacy against You:

They form a strong union to go against Israel. They are all in with “one consent – and then he adds yet again “against You” – that is against God. What happens with Israel – is personal with God!

In verses 6-8 he lists the members of this confederacy. Ten nations or people groups are listed. Stangely, most of the people groups mentioned are relatives of the Jews or have some close historical tie.

From verse 8 it seems that this plot was led by the sons of Lot (namely Moab and Ammon) and then the others joined in.

6 The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites;

**7 Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre;
8 Assyria also has joined with them; They have helped the children of Lot. Selah**

Slide # 7



Some of the specifics are hard to pin down with certainty, but the thing generally to note is that these countries had Israel surrounded and definitely outnumbered.

When we try to identify these nations with modern counterparts, we run into difficulty. ... Since so much obscurity surrounds these names, it is best not to try and link them with modern countries in the Middle East, but simply to see them as representing Gentile foes of Israel.

– **William MacDonald**

But some things never seem to change. Today Israel is vastly surrounded by enemies wanting to destroy her if they could.

Slide # 8



**THE GREEN IS THE ARAB WORLD.
THAT TINY SPECK IS ISRAEL.**

“The psalmist mentions ten different nations which had banded themselves together against God’s chosen people Israel. Ten against one is long odds but then God was on the side of Israel.”

– **Charles Spurgeon**

Selah! – Stop and soak this in!

**9 Deal with them as with Midian, As with Sisera, As with Jabin at the Brook Kishon,
10 Who perished at En Dor, Who became as refuse on the earth.**

Asaph here alluded to past victories over the Midianites by Gideon as seen in Judges 7-8.

Jabin, a Canaanite king and his chief commander named Sisera were killed and then left to rot like refuse out in the open as seen in Judges 4-5. As one said, they became “fertilizer for Israel’s soil.”

**11 Make their nobles like Oreb and like Zeeb, Yes, all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna,
12 Who said, “Let us take for ourselves The pastures of God for a possession.”**

Oreb and Zeeb were Midianite warriors defeated by Gideon (Judg. 7:25 – also see Isa. 10:26).

Zebah and Zalmunna were Midianite kings who were also defeated by Gideon (Judg. 8:5-6, 12, 18). They sought to occupy the “pastures of God” but failed miserably.

Note: The land of Israel is here called “The pastures of God”. Both the people and the land are called God’s. Some people might say, “Well that was just ancient history, but things are different now.” Oh, are they?

I would point out that prophecy says that one of the KEY reasons for God bringing judgment on the whole world in the last days is because of how they have abused both His land and His people – both which go by the name Israel.

Slide # 9

Joel 3:2 (NKJV)

2 I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land.

Doesn’t sound to me like God is over it or that He has forgotten!

13 O my God, make them like the whirling dust, Like the chaff before the wind!

14 As the fire burns the woods, And as the flame sets the mountains on fire,

15 So pursue them with Your tempest, And frighten them with Your storm.

“God, blow them away! Cause them to flee like a runaway fire. Pursue them like an inescapable storm. Terrify them!

Really, what he is asking is that God put the fear of God in them!

In arrogance, they exalt themselves (v. 2), but Asaph is asking God to storm them – to “**frighten them with Your storm.**” Isn’t that interesting language: “Frighten them with Your storm.” When God brings the storm, it’s terrifying beyond imagination! God’s storms are controlled by God and can only be stopped by Him!

16 Fill their faces with shame, That they may seek Your name, O Lord.

This is an appropriate prayer for those who hate God and His people. He is basically asking God to HUMBLE THEM to the point they will repent and seek the Lord! So it was not all “just kill them”. This is real love! He wants them to get saved – to turn and seek the Lord.

Asaph understood what we often forget: people will often only seek the LORD if they are first laid low before His power. There is a sense in which God must defeat us before He will save us. – **David Guzik**

17 Let them be confounded and dismayed forever; Yes, let them be put to shame and perish,

Taken altogether, he is praying for their repentance, but if they refuse, he asks that God put them to shame to where they feel overwhelming alarm or dismay! He says, “Yes, let them be put to shame and perish.” Bring them down in disgrace!

One way or another they need to be brought down by God. Either through repentance or through utter defeat by God’s overwhelming power! One way or another they need to be brought down.

18 That they may know that You, whose name alone is the Lord, Are the Most High over all the earth.

His ultimate prayer is that God may so work that they may know that God for Who He truly is. His desire is that God would so work that they would know that God ALONE is God – that they would know that this ONE true God is LORD – that is YHWH – the eternal/unchanging covenant of Israel, and that He is Most High over all the earth, which is to say that He is totally sovereign over all!

The Psalm begins with pleading that God not remain silent and ends with a prayer that God in breaking His silence will result in the conversion of these enemies of God. That is a great way to pray!

On Oct 7 Hamas viciously attacked and murdered, raped, and captured about 1500 Jews. It was inhumane beyond measure.

AI Overview of the Hamas Charters...

Hamas has two main charters, the original 1988 charter and a revised 2017 charter, that present different statements about Jews.

. The 1988 charter is explicitly **antisemitic and genocidal**, while the 2017 document attempts to distinguish between Jews and the Zionist project of Israel. Both documents and numerous public statements from Hamas leaders reveal a core commitment to **violence and the destruction of Israel**.

PTL is would seem that the remaining hostages are soon to be released. But here is my point. After Oct. 7, and given how the massacre was so public, you would have thought there would have been an outpouring of sympathy for Israel. But no, after the world took a few breaths, there was a tremendous growth in antisemitism throughout the world. Almost everywhere, the Jews are now being blamed again, and antisemitism is on the rise.

For example, in the United States, Jews make up only about 2 percent of the population, and yet they are the target of about 60 percent of the country's hate crimes. This is the stuff of spiritual warfare. Satan is the author of antisemitism, and he isn't ever going to stop beating that drum until the second coming.

Israel was BIG time in the news again this week with the promise of the hostages being released. It is always amazing how the headlines related to Israel command the world's attention!

We know that in the end, the entire Gentile world will be aligned against Jerusalem, as seen, for example, in Psalm 2 and Zechariah 14.

In the meantime, we are looking for the blessed hope, and we pray for God's enemies who are the enemies of God's people that they would repent and come to the knowledge of the truth (cf. 1 Tim. 2:4). They need to come from the position of self-exaltation to seeking the name of the LORD (v. 2, 16). In the NT that's called REPENTANCE!

God is still God, and He is still the God of Israel! And His word still stands where God said to Abram...

Genesis 12:3 (NKJV)

3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

God help us to be those who bless the Jews! One's attitude toward the Jews is really a reflection of their view of God!

God help us to love what He loves and hate what He hates. He still loves Israel in spite of its rebellion. He is not done with them yet!

When I was a little child,
I loved my mother so,
I liked to touch what she had touched,
And always tried to know
The things she loved best of all,
So I could love them too.
I made a secret list of them,
Although she never knew.

And now that I am grown I love
My heavenly Father so,
And like a child again
I humbly seek to know
The things which are most dear to Him.,
So I may love them too,
And thus draw closer to His heart;
And so love the Jew! - (**Poem by Martha Snell Nicholson**)

May our prayer be that the enemies of God and His people (whoever they might be) might know that the LORD (YHWH) ALONE is the Most High over all the earth!