

Psalm 83

Introduction: In verses 1 through 5, there is an appeal for the LORD GOD to confound His enemies followed by stating in a general manner the dreadful and sinful characteristics of those enemies. Verses 6 through 8 the Psalmist is specific about those enemies and gives an account of their rebellion against the LORD GOD and His people. This leads to a fervent and urgent petition that the LORD overthrow the wicked in verses 9 through 15. The Psalm ends with an expression of desire that GOD's glory be manifested and exalted in His execution of justice, that His omnipotence be displayed so that it be known He is the Most High over all the earth. May we by His mercy be taught from the Word of GOD and from Asaph to keep our hearts, souls, and minds fixed upon the LORD, even or especially when it seems evil is prevailing.

Read Psalm 83

Verses 1 - 5: I wish to begin by listing the dreadful distinctives of the enemies of GOD listed by Asaph.

- They make an uproar
- They hate the LORD GOD
- They exalt themselves
- They make shrewd plans against His people
- They conspire against His treasured ones
- They desire that we be wiped out and remembered no more
- They conspire together in unity and make a covenant against GOD

Dear Brothers and Sisters our lives will run counter by His merciful, glorious grace to this wicked way and we will encounter this way. We are but pilgrims residing as aliens in this present world.

The plea for GOD to hear, to not be silent nor still, to not withhold His peace in the time of trouble is at the opening of this Psalm. May we by GOD's mercy be taught to be so fully dependent upon the LORD as the psalmist. He does not cry out for help from the world but looks solely to Jehovah knowing His Eternal Power is sufficient. We shouldn't find it strange thing when the world comes against us in hatred. After all, Jesus said: [John 15:18 NASB] **18 "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you.** This principle is seen as the Lord Jesus is preparing His apostles to be sent out into the world. As the Lord Jesus instructs the apostles, as seen in Matthew chapter 10, He tells them the authority they have been given as they go out to proclaim the Gospel; to proclaim that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. He commanded them to heal the sick, to raise the dead, to cleanse lepers, and to cast out demons so that the hearers would know that He is the Son of GOD. The apostles are the instruments GOD used to announce the fulfillment of the prophecy of the Redeemer, our Savior Jesus Christ – Here is a part of that prophecy from [Daniel 2:44 NASB] **44 "In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.** Immediately after hearing the authority Jesus granted the apostles and they received instructions on how to carry out this divine commission of announcing our LORD and calling people to repent and believe; He prepares them for persecution. He assures them persecution will come and that they are being sent out as sheep in the midst of wolves. He tells them to be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. He spoke of the persecution as certain and told them they would be delivered over to the synagogues, and they would be dragged before governors and kings for His sake to bear witness before the Jews and Gentiles. The Lord Jesus tells the apostles why the world will come against them with this principle that we should take to heart as well.

[Matthew 10:24-25 NASB] **24 "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. 25 "It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign the members of his household!** We should not be surprised when the world stands

against us because they are first standing against Him Who has sent us. The Word of GOD instructs believers to consider our Master and commends us for not growing weary. He commends us for doing that which He has mercifully given us the ability to do for His glory! [Hebrews 12:3 NASB] **3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.** So, there is this dynamic in the Christian's life; the world will hate us and come against us, and yet we have been graciously and mercifully rescued to be a part of an Eternal Kingdom. The miracle of salvation of being made able to love and treasure Him is our great hope and sustains us in times of trial that we not only limp through them, but we thrive.

Verse 6 - 8: In verses 6 through 8 the psalmist gives specific accounts of those who have come against GOD and His people. The grudge between the son of the bondwoman, Ishmael and the son of the freewoman, Isaac is alive and well today. The enemies of GOD have the common bond of this persecuting spirit that is grounded by the trait of exalting themselves. **"And those who hate You have exalted themselves."** Listen as I read a few passages of Scripture that warn us against such a sinful practice:

[James 4:6, 10 NASB] **6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." ... 10 Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.**

[1 Peter 5:6 NASB] **6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,**

[Matthew 23:12 NASB] **12 "Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.**

Verses 9 - 15: The psalmist petitions by faith for the LORD to act on His behalf and for His people by quoting before the LORD accounts of His past deliverance. Remember they recurring theme that we have seen in our study of the Psalms has been the OT saint often recalling the LORD's deliverance of His people out of Egypt. This teaches us that we should often recall our own deliverance that we be encouraged by the Person and the Work of Christ so that we may grow in our love and service for the Eternal King to which we belong. These verses assure us that the LORD GOD is sovereign over every detail of His creation and that we as those who have been rescued are in His Hands.

Verse 16 - 18: In verse 16 we are given our hope in the LORD's dealing with man – that they may seek Your Name O LORD. We pray that as the LORD deals with the sinner that His conviction will be that of a godly sorrow leading to repentance and not a worldly sorrow leading to death. Shame has often weaned men from their idols and set them upon seeking the Lord. The earth is but His footstool and the desire of the saint, our desire, is all may know that He alone, Whose Name is the LORD is the Most High over all the earth.

Closing: As our LORD instructs the Apostles in Matthew 10, He commands them to do that which is impossible. He commands them to not fear those who malign His people. It is along the lines of the impossibility we see in the Epistle of James to consider it all joy when we encounter various trials. Both are impossible apart from the granted grace, mercy, and strength of our LORD. In Matthew 16, we are given the reason we are to not fear. [Matthew 16:18-19] **18 "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. 19 "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."** May we be able to rejoice in the hope of GOD's sovereignty, power, authority, mercy, His goodness and lovingkindness knowing that the enemies of the Gospel and His Church will not prevail. In Ephesians 2:19-20 we are given

how we are to understand the Rock upon which Christ will build His Church and what are the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. [Ephesians 2:19-20 NASB] **19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,** So Christ is the rock and the Gospel is the keys or the foundation of the apostles and prophets. May we have the blessing of assurance knowing that we can't be snatched from His Hand: [1 John 4:4] **4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.** I pray the LORD will enable each of us to walk in this reality for His glory. I say again to remind us – even though the world will hate us and come against us; we have been graciously and mercifully rescued to be a part of an Eternal Kingdom. The miracle of salvation of being made able to love and treasure Him is our great hope and sustains us in trial that we not only limp through it, but we thrive. Do not lose heart dear saints. Be encouraged that you are not like the chaff but are the treasured ones. Run to the feet of our King, our LORD, our Redeemer, our Master!!!!

Amen

Reference verses:

- Tents of Edom

[Psalm 137:7 NASB] **7 Remember, O LORD, against the sons of Edom The day of Jerusalem, Who said, "Raze it, raze it To its very foundation."**

[2 Chronicles 20:10 NASB] **10 "Now behold, the sons of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom You did not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt (they turned aside from them and did not destroy them),**

- Ishmaelites

[Genesis 25:12-16 NASB] **12 Now these are the records of the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's maid, bore to Abraham; 13 and these are the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, in the order of their birth: Nebaioth, the firstborn of Ishmael, and Kedar and Adbeel and Mibsam 14 and Mishma and Dumah and Massa, 15 Hadad and Tema, Jetur, Naphish and Kedemah. 16 These are the sons of Ishmael and these are their names, by their villages, and by their camps; twelve princes according to their tribes.**

- Moab

[2 Chronicles 20:10 NASB] **10 "Now behold, the sons of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom You did not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt (they turned aside from them and did not destroy them),**

- Hagrites

[1 Chronicles 5:10 NASB] **10 In the days of Saul they made war with the Hagrites, who fell by their hand, so that they occupied their tents throughout all the land east of Gilead.**

- Gebal

[Joshua 13:5 NASB] **5 and the land of the Gebalite, and all of Lebanon, toward the east, from Baal-gad below Mount Hermon as far as Lebo-hamath.Ammon**

- Amalek

[1 Samuel 15:2 NASB] **2 "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he set himself against him on the way while he was coming up from Egypt.**

Saul was disobedient to the LORD's command to utterly destroy all that he has.

- Philistia

[1 Samuel 4:1 NASB] **1 Thus the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out to meet the Philistines in battle and camped beside Ebenezer while the Philistines camped in Aphek.**

[Amos 1:6 NASB] **6 Thus says the LORD, "For three transgressions of Gaza and for four I will not revoke its punishment, Because they deported an entire population To deliver it up to Edom.**

- Inhabitants of Tyre

[Ezekiel 27:3 NASB] **3 and say to Tyre, who dwells at the entrance to the sea, merchant of the peoples to many coastlands, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "O Tyre, you have said, 'I am perfect in beauty.'**

[Amos 1:9 NASB] **9 Thus says the LORD, "For three transgressions of Tyre and for four I will not revoke its punishment, Because they delivered up an entire population to Edom And did not remember the covenant of brotherhood.**

- Assyria

[2 Kings 15:19 NASB] **19 Pul, king of Assyria, came against the land, and Menahem gave Pul a thousand talents of silver so that his hand might be with him to strengthen the kingdom under his rule.**

- Children of Lot

[Deuteronomy 2:9, 19 NASB] **9 "Then the LORD said to me, 'Do not harass Moab, nor provoke them to war, for I will not give you any of their land as a possession, because I have given Ar to the sons of Lot as a possession.' ... 19 'When you come opposite the sons of Ammon, do not harass them nor provoke them, for I will not give you any of the land of the sons of Ammon as a possession, because I have given it to the sons of Lot as a possession.'**

- Deal with them as with Midian

[Numbers 31:7 NASB] **7 So they made war against Midian, just as the LORD had commanded Moses, and they killed every male.**

[Isaiah 9:4 NASB] **4 For You shall break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, The rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian.**

- As with Sisera and Jabin at the torrent of Kishon

[Judges 4:15, 24 NASB] **15 The LORD routed Sisera and all his chariots and all his army with the edge of the sword before Barak; and Sisera alighted from his chariot and fled away on foot. ... 24 The hand of the sons of Israel pressed heavier and heavier upon Jabin the king of Canaan, until they had destroyed Jabin the king of Canaan.**

- Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb

[Judges 7:25 NASB] **25 They captured the two leaders of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb, and they killed Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and they killed Zeeb at the wine press of Zeeb, while they pursued Midian; and they brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon from across the Jordan.**

[Judges 8:3 NASB] **3 "God has given the leaders of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb into your hands; and what was I able to do in comparison with you?" Then their anger toward him subsided when he said that.**

- And all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna

[Judges 8:5-21 NASB] **5 He said to the men of Succoth, "Please give loaves of bread to the people who are following me, for they are weary, and I am pursuing Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of Midian." 6 The leaders of Succoth said, "Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna already in your hands, that we should give bread to your army?" 7 Gideon said, "All right, when the LORD has given Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, then I will thrash your bodies with the thorns of the wilderness and with briers." 8 He went up from there to Penuel and spoke similarly to them; and the men of Penuel answered him just as the men of Succoth had answered. 9 So he spoke also to the men of Penuel, saying, "When I return safely, I will tear down this tower." 10 Now Zebah and Zalmunna were in Karkor, and their armies with them, about 15,000 men, all who were left of the entire army of the sons of the east; for the fallen were 120,000 swordsmen. 11 Gideon went up by the way of those who lived in tents on the east of Nobah and Jogbehah, and attacked the camp when the camp was unsuspecting. 12 When Zebah and Zalmunna fled, he pursued them and captured the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna, and routed the whole army. 13 Then Gideon the son of Joash returned from the battle by the ascent of Heres. 14 And he captured a youth from Succoth and questioned him. Then the youth wrote down for him the princes of Succoth and**

its elders, seventy-seven men. 15 He came to the men of Succoth and said, "Behold Zebah and Zalmunna, concerning whom you taunted me, saying, 'Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna already in your hand, that we should give bread to your men who are weary?'" 16 He took the elders of the city, and thorns of the wilderness and briers, and he disciplined the men of Succoth with them. 17 He tore down the tower of Penuel and killed the men of the city. 18 Then he said to Zebah and Zalmunna, "What kind of men were they whom you killed at Tabor?" And they said, "They were like you, each one resembling the son of a king." 19 He said, "They were my brothers, the sons of my mother. As the LORD lives, if only you had let them live, I would not kill you." 20 So he said to Jether his firstborn, "Rise, kill them." But the youth did not draw his sword, for he was afraid, because he was still a youth. 21 Then Zebah and Zalmunna said, "Rise up yourself, and fall on us; for as the man, so is his strength." So Gideon arose and killed Zebah and Zalmunna, and took the crescent ornaments which were on their camels' necks.