

Evening Sermon Outline – December 20, 2020

“Asaph’s Answered Prayer” Psalm 83

A Song. A Psalm of Asaph.

I. A prayer for God’s Voice, His Word, His Wrath and His Action -

¹ Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your peace, and do not be still, O God! Psalm 83:1 (NKJV)

II. The reasons for this prayer:

1. Asaph calls upon God to “**Do not keep silent**” because His enemies make a tumult -

² For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; Psalm 83:2 A

2. These, enemies of God, haters of God, have lifted their head -

And those who hate You have lifted up their head. Psalm 83:2 B

3. They have conspired together against God’s people, to destroy them, together they think they can eliminate God -

³ They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, and consulted together against Your sheltered ones. 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.” ⁵ For they have consulted together with one consent; They form a confederacy against You: Psalm 82:3-5

Note, God’s people are called sheltered ones, in the KJV thy hidden ones.

It is a sad day when God’s enemies are bold and loud, and God’s people are hiding or hidden! Sheltered in fear!

They are sometimes hidden by *persecution*. For though this does not prevent their being Christians, it hinders them from appearing as such; especially by secluding them from their social and public assemblies.... They are sometimes hidden by the obscurity of their stations.” John Jay

There was a day in America of famous preachers, that day is fading!

III. The specifics of this prayer –

1. An enemies list -

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

2. How to answer this prayer (specifics) –

A. Historically, like You God dealt with Midian –

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. 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.” Psalm 83:9-12

B. Dramatically, so that people would see and learn from it -

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. ¹⁶ Fill their faces with shame, That they may seek Your name, O LORD. ¹⁷ Let them be confounded and dismayed forever; Yes, let them be put to shame and perish, ¹⁸ That they may know that You, whose name alone is the LORD, Are the Most High over all the earth. Psalm 83:13-18

The picture of those who hated and challenged God, whirling like dust, burning, running from the storm of God’s fearful wrath, would result in at least some of God’s enemies: Shame - :16 (2) Seeking - :16 (3) Knowing - :18, hinting some may be saved? However look also at verse :17

¹⁷ Let them be confounded and dismayed forever; Yes, let them be put to shame and perish, Psalm 83:17

:17 - Indicates this is not a prayer that ALL of God’s enemies would be saved, but whether saved or not they would see their own ERROR!

IV. God’s wonderful answer to this prayer –

1. Note, Asaph was not alone praying this prayer -

²⁰ It happened after this *that* the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and *others* with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat. ² Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, “A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from

Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar” (which *is* En Gedi). ³ And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. ⁴ So Judah gathered together to ask *help* from the LORD; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD. ⁵ Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court, ⁶ and said: “O LORD God of our fathers, *are* You not God in heaven, and do You *not* rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand *is there not* power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You? ⁷ Are You not our God, *who* drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever? ⁸ And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying, ⁹ ‘If disaster comes upon us—sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine—we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name *is* in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.’ ¹⁰ And now, here are the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir—whom You would not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them and did not destroy them—¹¹ here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit. ¹² O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes *are* upon You.” ¹³ Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the LORD. 2 Chronicles 20:1–13 (NKJV)

2. *But Asaph’s role was prominent –*

Here we find this son of Asaph more specifically identified -

¹⁴ Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. ¹⁵ And he said, “Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: ‘Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle *is* not yours, but God’s. ¹⁶ Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷ You will not *need* to fight in this *battle*. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!’ Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD *is* with you.”

¹⁸ And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with *his* face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the LORD, worshiping the LORD. ¹⁹ Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with voices loud and high.

²⁰ So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.” ²¹ And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: “Praise the LORD, For His mercy *endures* forever.”

2 Chronicles 20:14–21 (NKJV)

3. *In this battle God’s people sing and praise, were they singing Psalm 83? It would have been appropriate; the enemies of God’s people destroy each other -*

²² Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated. ²³ For the people of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy *them*. And when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

²⁴ So when Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude; and there *were* their dead bodies, fallen on the earth. No one had escaped.

²⁵ When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away their spoil, they found among them an abundance of valuables on the dead bodies, and precious jewelry, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away; and they were three days gathering the spoil because there was so much. ²⁶ And on the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Berachah, for there they blessed the LORD; therefore the name of that place was called The Valley of Berachah until this day. ²⁷ Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, with Jehoshaphat in front of them, to go back to Jerusalem with joy, for the LORD had made them rejoice over their enemies. ²⁸ So they came to Jerusalem, with stringed instruments and harps and trumpets, to the house of the LORD. 2 Chronicles 20:22–28 (NKJV)

4. *We see the answer to the last part of Asaph’s prayer answered in the response of the survivors from the surrounding countries -*

²⁹ And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of *those* countries when they heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel. ³⁰ Then the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for his God gave him rest all around. 2 Chronicles 20:29–30 (NKJV)

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