

Tuesday, March 14, 2023 • Read Psalm 83

Questions from the Scripture text: How is this Psalm identified (superscript)? Who penned it? What three things does v1 ask God not to do? What two things are his enemies doing (v2,5)? And against whom are they planning to do what (v3-4)? Who, specifically, are these enemies (v6-8)? What previous enemies do God's people pray that these new ones would join (v9-11)? What had those enemies done (v12)? With what two images does the Psalm use to ask God to show His comparative power and their comparative weakness (v13-15)? What does he ask the Lord to do to them (v16a)? So that they may find out what (v16b)? What does he pray will happen to them (v17)? So that they may know what (v18)?

What should God's people do, when the whole world seems powerfully allied against them? Psalm 83 looks forward to the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these eighteen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **when God's enemies are in powerful conspiracy against them, it is for the glory of God's Name, which will be displayed in His enemies' humiliation.**

Psalm 82 warned kings and judges about their coming judgment by God the great Judge. This brought it into harmony with Psalm 2. Now, Psalm 83 resonates with that same Psalm, as Asaph pleads with God to address the raging nations.

Attacking God. This is the great offense of those who oppose Israel (v4). Israel is "Your people" (v3a) and "Your sheltered ones" (v3b). This makes them "Your enemies" (v2a) and "those who hate You" (v2b)—those who have "consulted together" to "form a confederacy against You" (cf. Ps 2:1-2). To attack God's people is to attack Him Himself.

Praying for God to hurry. Undoubtedly, God will defend His honor that has been attacked in the attacks on His people. What the Psalm prays is that the time of answer would not delay—that God would now respond (v1). This is a help to us, as we wait patiently upon God's timing in any area of life. It is not incompatible with submissive waiting for us to ask Him to hurry. But the same Psalm that puts such requests into our mouths teaches us to do so with a desire for His glory.

What all God's enemies have in common. There are ten hostile nations in vv5-8 that speak nearly as many different languages and worship even more different gods. The one thing that they can all agree on is hatred of God and His people: "They have consulted together with one consent; they form a confederacy against You."

But this will not be the last thing that they have in common: "deal with them as with" in vv9-12 brings to mind a period in Judges 4-8, where one enemy after another attacked God's people, and God destroyed them. Significantly, this was not during an age of God's people's faithfulness, but a time of serious backsliding. Centuries later, in Psalm 83, other enemies will join these in their destruction—as will all of God's people's enemies, ultimately.

The divine conspiracy behind men's conspiracies. Let the people of God never despair, when His enemies' fury reaches its fever pitch. This is a sign that they are about to be destroyed. They are like dust before a mighty wind (v13) or kindling before a mighty fire (v14). Bible history and subsequent history has shown that when the enemies have seemed their most dangerous, it has been to set them up for humiliation (consider the account of Assyria, cf. v8, that we are currently reading in 2Kings 19).

It is still the same today. What we need is to know Yahweh, specifically to know the reality of that Name of His (v16b, 18a). He is the Most High over all the earth (v18b), and those who oppose Him will be filled with shame (v16a), confounded and dismayed forever (v17a), put to shame and perish (v17b). Psalm 83 drives the believer to the Lord to be refreshed in his confidence in Yahweh, Who is from everlasting to everlasting, and upon Whom all things utterly depend—including even His enemies.

Some will be brought to seek His Name in a saving way. Other knees will do their bowing, and other tongues will do their confessing, as they are destroyed. On the last day, enemies will only do the latter. So now, in time, when God's people are in their greatest distress, let them pray and sing this Psalm, seeking the glory of their God. It may be that He may bring some enemies to kiss the Son and be blessed with us sin trusting Him (cf. Ps 2:12a, d). And it may be that He will shatter them to smithereens with a rod of iron (cf. Ps 2:9, 12b-c). But their conspiracy and attack must end, and He must be glorified. So, let us sing this prayer that, by His Spirit, we would be well-affected with this truth and plead it with sincere hearts.

Where do you see the enemies of God most "successfully" and most vigorously opposing Him and attacking His people? What will the outcome of this be? How does this Psalm teach your heart to respond?

Sample prayer: Lord, we praise You, Who are Most High over all the earth. Truly, from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. All of the nations are Yours, and Your people whom they attack, are called by Your Name and identified with Your salvation. As we draw near to You now, grant Your Spirit's light-giving, life-giving help, so that we may know Your glory. Thus, make us to call upon You to subdue all Your enemies under You. Grant, even, that any who do not know You would be brought to seek Your Name with us, would be brought to kiss the Son, would be brought to trust in Him. For this, and for all other blessings, we pray through Him, even Jesus Christ, Our Lord, AMEN!!

Suggested songs: ARP83 "Do Not Be Silent, God" or TPH83 "O My God, Do Not Keep Silent"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Psalm 83 my song, the psalm of ASAP. Do not keep silent. Oh god, do not hold your peace. Do not be still or god. For behold your enemies, make a tumult. And those who hate you have lifted up their head. They take crafty Council against your people and consulted together against your sheltered ones.

They have said come, let us cut them off from being a nation that the name of Israel may be remembered no more. They have consultants together with one consent. They form a confederacy against you, the tense of eat them and the Ishmaelites Moab and the hagriles. Gable almond and Amalek Philistia with inhabitants of tire.

Assyria also has joined with them. They have helped the children of lot. Deal with them as with Midian, as with Cicero as with job in it the broken. Who perished and indoor who became as a refuse in the earth. Make their nobles like Orab and like Z. Yes. All their princess like zebans Almuda.

Who said let us take for ourselves the pastors of God for a possession. Oh my god. Make them like the whirling dust. Like the chat before the wind. Was the fire burns, the woods and does the flame sets the mountains on fire. So pursue them with your tempest. Frighten them with your storm, fill their faces with shame.

That they may seek your name or Yahweh. Let them be confounded and dismayed forever. Yes, let them be put to shame in parish. That they may know that you whose name alone is Yahweh. Are the most high. Over all the Earth. So far the reading of God's inspired and An errant worked.

Often, it seems as if the whole world. There's powerfully allied against God's people.

Setting of the psalm is difficult to place. Because, Of the 10 nations that were are described in the psalm. As being against the people of God, it's difficult to find a single time at which all 10 were conspired against them. Although there are enough times that enough of the nation said, conspired against them that the Bible scholars have several suggestions of times that this could have been But the song itself is praying in a situation where there are enemies of God's people conspired and allied against them.

And it's actually appealing to times in the past, when God, God's own enemies. Those who hate him have hated. Of course, also his people for his sake. And have been against them and God has humiliated those enemies. So, I think that this psalm is not It's not a dressing, a specific setting in which all 10 of these are, but it's addressing how the nations as a whole have been allied against god.

And therefore, of course allied against Christ. Ever since there have been nations. That man having send in Adam and fallen and Adam and therefore among humanity, they're not being only the seed of the woman who god is redeeming out of that fault. But the seed of the serpent whom God in his justice and righteousness is not redeeming.

And you see immediately the line of Seth The seed of the woman and the line of came who is the seed of the serpent and attacked of course Abel. Who is before the line of Satis the one, who Seth replaced and how the seed of the serpent have always attacked, not just God himself.

But all of the seat of the woman and very specifically have attacked and rejected Christ. So this psalms Psalm 93, has a lot in common, doesn't it with Psalm 2? The nation's rage kingdoms and people's plot in vain. And so I saw 82 that had a lot to do with some Psalm 2 because of the judges, who are not judging rightly and Christ, the great king, the king of kings, lord of lords, and judge of judges.

Is going to shatter them. In in the last day and he shatters them progressively also through history. As he tears down nations and kings and the powerful in their arrogance from time to time and Psalm 83 with the conspiracy of those who are against god and those who are against Christ and then recognizing That they are against his people as well.

How's the Lord? Jesus told his disciples even before his own crucifixion, the world is hated me. Don't be surprised when they hate you too. And so we we must not be surprised if the more we trust in Christ, the more evidently we belong to him, the more we proclaim him.

Has the more our life shows forth his righteousness and is convicting and exposing to those who are darkness around us. And we shouldn't expect them to say, oh, look at those people, they are light. We love the light. Let's all become Christians, too. God is saving someone, he will have that response but except for that miracle of divine grace, the darkness will hate the light because it's own deeds.

Are evil. And so Christians will find themselves in situations where they are attacked for god's sake. And yet we can take comfort in the in the fact that when they attack God's people, God receives it as an attack upon himself. So, looking at the text and versus one and two, and he says, do not keep silent.

Do not hold your piece do not be still. He doesn't say hour enemies, make it to molt and those who hate awesome lifted up their head. That's true too. But when the church is attacked, when believers are attacked because we belong to god. And because God has redeeming us and conforming us to the image of christ.

He's put his name upon us and shows his character in us. They're not just attacking us, being our enemies in those way to us, they're being god's enemies and those who hate him. And we can appeal to him. Well, on that basis, now, notice that he's asking for God to hurry to not, keep silent.

Do not hold your peace to not. Be still the the basis of the request of the whole psalm is knowing that God is just and that vengeance belongs to him. And it's true that we should be patient as we wait on. God, we should be submissive to his timing but here doesn't the Holy spirit.

Teach us that it's not wrong to ask God that his timing would be now. Not in a way that says, I know, better than God, it would be better if God answered. Now, then it would be if God answered later. But crying out with our desire, that his justice would be exercised.

That is his vengeance would come. Make haste of God. That is one of the common prayers, isn't it in the psalms and it's good for believers to know that it's not wrong to pray that way. Because we have I hope a healthy suspicion of ourselves and our desires. And so when we say hurry up, god, it sounds like that is always something that says I'm not satisfied to wait for you.

But the same heart that says I'm not satisfied to wait for you can also say, Do not keep silent. Oh god, do not hold your peace. Do not be still or even make haste. Oh gods to help me. Knowing that God's timing is perfect and being willing. Having expressed that to him, which is spirit teaches us that we may and therefore should express to him being willing to wait upon his timing and to wait upon his answer.

So whether he delivers us in accordance to what we have asked, or whether it is for his sake, that we end up being led as sheep to the slaughter or killed all day long. We may submissively trust that he is working all things together for our good in the way that those two parts of Exodus, Exodus of Romans age 28, through 38 and go together.

So they're attacking god, it's okay to pray for God to hurry. What all god's enemies have in common. Is that they will be destroyed. When he goes through. Now, not the nations that are attacking. That in versus. Oh. Oh. What? That looks like. 5 through 8, but then he turns to nations that have attacked in Kings that have attacked in the past.

And he quotes rapid fire from several different incidents within the scope of judges chapters 4 through 8. And he does that here. In verses 9 through 12 and he says, deal with them as with deal with them as with deal with them as with And he's remembering. But yes, all of the enemies have in common that they hate us.

But they also have in common that they're going to be destroyed. Because none of God's enemies will will stand in the last day. And so, if we're looking, At the resistance that we face and we can see how the the serpent himself and the seed of the serpent have hated God's people.

You think about Pharaoh slaughtering? Israelite babies or you think about Herod slaughtering? Bethlehemite babies. And you you see the same spirit and the

same murder and the same hatred in someone today. And you think? You think how dreadful this is that? We are that we are facing something that comes from the same satanic opposition and hostility and cruelty.

Well, remember, The table suffer the same mistake defeat. As Satan and all those who are with him, that's something that God's enemies all have in common. They will all be destroyed. And some of them. Some of them. Praise God will be destroyed by being made new. There's just a hint of this in verse 16.

Fill their faces with shame that they may seek your name. And there are those who will be humiliated in their life brought to an end of themselves and converted. Praise God. Isn't this? What happens to the Apostle? Paul great enemy of God's church pager of the name of Jesus Christ.

And he is instantly filled with shame and seeks his name. Who are you? Lord, he says. After the Lord Jesus says, Paul Paul, why do you persecute me? Taking personally to himself. What is done to his people just as the psalm has begun in so many three by praying that God would do your enemies.

Those who hate you? And Paul saw his name. Who are you? Lord. This is, I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting, and God takes the murderous enemy, fills him. With shame turns him into a secret of his name, makes him his apostle to the gentle. So that's one way that God destroys an enemy is by converting him, but they will all be destroyed.

And if not that way then and the last day in this way, in verse 17 and 18, let them be confounded and dismayed forever. Yes, let them be put to shame and Perish. That they may know that you whose name alone is Yahweh. Or whose name is Yahweh. Are the most high.

Over all the earth. And so, this is This is what is always happening. The Lord is bringing everyone to know. That he alone is called the Lord is bringing everyone to know and to acknowledge that Jesus Christ is God and either they will do so In this life and be brought to faith or they will do, so still in the last day.

And so if the desire is that God would be glorified, that Christ would be glorified. Then whatever situation we are in, we can know that, that is what God has accomplishing. And the more we love God, and his glory, the more, we love Jesus, and his glory. The more certain we are that God rules sovereignly overall things and that's what he has accomplishing.

The less, we will be dismayed.

When God's enemies, rise up against him and against his church. And the more we will not only trust but rejoice that the glory of God. Is being. Accomplished. We are not only those who kiss the sun. Well, unless we be destroyed, when his wrath is kindled but a little But we are those blessed blast are all Who trust in him?

Lord, we live in a day. In which it is quite obvious that many Are allied against you.

In a day in which So often even not necessarily against the church. But conspiracy theory has just It turned out to be true. Because the conspiring and the wickedness of man is so great. And of course, oh God, That is always ultimately against you. When so we thank you for giving us the psalm which addresses exactly that situation.

And reminding us where it comes from. That all of these enemies. Are under the power of and examples. Of the enemy and his hostility to you. And to Christ and therefore, to us for Christ's sake. And we pray that you would give us confidence in yourself and a love for your glory.

That would enable us to pray rightly that you would hurry up. And execute justice and vengeance. But that you would also enable us to Weight, patiently, and submissively. Knowing that you are accomplishing your glory. And loving your glory. Make us to increase and love for your glory. We ask In Jesus name, amen.