

Psalm 83 – Thursday, January 31st, 2019

- Psalm 83 is one of those Psalms that will require a bit of an introduction for what I'm sure could be deemed obvious reasons.
- This because it deals with what some believe is a prophecy concerning Israel being wiped off the map, and is yet to be fulfilled.
- Other's believe that it has already been fulfilled and this more recently, subsequent to the rebirth of Israel back in the year 1948.

- Actually, there are others who suggest that Psalm 83 was written concerning the account that's recorded in 2 Chronicles 20.
- I suppose the question becomes, which is it? Is it a prophecy yet future to be fulfilled, or has it already been fulfilled historically.
- While I'm not dogmatic about my interpretation of Psalm 83 it's my belief that it has already been fulfilled, but could still happen.

- It's for this reason that I want to teach Psalm 83 related to its historic situation, prophetic implication, and personal application.
- By that I mean there's a marriage of sorts between Bible history and Bible prophecy that speaks to how God helps His people.
- Such is the case with Psalm 83 in that God will always defend His people, for His names sake, yesterday today, and forever.

Psalm 83 -- A Song. A Psalm of Asaph. 1 Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your peace, And do not be still, O God! 2 For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; And those who hate You have lifted up their head. 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: 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 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." 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.

- Before we drill down into this I think it would be good to point out a couple of observations as it relates to who these nations are.
- First, Asaph lists a ten-nation confederacy that consists of all the surrounding people groups that all share a border with Israel.
- Second, these bordering countries have conspired together with the purpose of destroying Israel so it's remembered no more.

- I would suggest this seems to fit more with what's happened here-to-fore, which is why I lean towards it having been fulfilled.
- The reason being is that today, both Jordan and Egypt have a peace agreement with Israel after failing to destroy Israel prior.
- As such, they've been rendered inconsequential, as it were, and it's evidenced by their conspicuous absence from Ezekiel 38.

- A number of years ago, I put together a graphic of the nations listed by their ancient names and also the ones that are absent.
- The reason I mention this is that it would stand to reason that the Psalm 83 nations have already failed in previous attempts.
- In other words, they would certainly be mentioned in Ezekiel 38, especially Syria, which brings up another prophecy in Isaiah.

- This comports with the prophetic implications of Psalm 83 in the sense that it brings the Ezekiel 38 prophecy to the forefront.
- With these bordering countries being out of the prophetic picture, chief of which is Syria, the stage is now set for Ezekiel 38.
- This also comports with the historic situation concerning Bible history and it's intersection with Bible prophecy via Psalm 83.

- This brings us to the aforementioned personal application that's ever so beautifully woven into the fabric of the amazing Psalm.
- Specifically, the account that we have recorded in the book of Second Chronicles when all of these enemies surrounded Israel.
- If you'll kindly allow me to, I would like to take the remainder of our time and look at what God did for Israel, against all odds.

2 Chronicles 20:5-12 - 5 And 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? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you. 7 Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? 8 And they have lived in it and have built for you in it a sanctuary for your name, saying, 9 'If disaster comes upon us, the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before you—for your name is in this house—and cry out to you in our affliction, and you will hear and save.' 10 And now behold, the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom you would not let Israel invade when they came from the land of Egypt, and whom they avoided and did not destroy— 11 behold, they reward us by coming to drive us out of your possession, which you have given us to inherit. 12 O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."

- The place that Jehoshaphat finds himself in is the best possible place to be when we are faced with an impossible situation.
- It's when it's impossible for us that it's possible for God and when we are helpless and hopeless that He rushes in to deliver.
- I am of the belief that God will bring us to this place so He can do what He desires to do and be the only one to get the glory.

2 Chronicles 20:13-17 - 13 Meanwhile all Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, and their children. 14 And the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. 15 And he said, "Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the Lord to you, 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. 16 Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. 17 You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the Lord will be with you."

- While there are times that God will choose to give us strength to fight the battle, it's on this occasion that God fights it for them.
- There are those times in our lives when God will tell us that the battle is not ours, it's His, and all we need to do is stand firm.
- What's interesting to me is Asaph in Psalm 83 pleads with God to fight this battle and win this victory for them, instead of them.