

PSALM 83

The internal evidence of this psalm is almost overwhelming in placing it during the reign of King Jehoshaphat. Asaph's concern is the imminent wars and dangers that face Israel. He is well aware of the dangers that arise from a confederation of enemy nations. We recognize in this psalm the normal prayer of an endangered people, for which no apologies need be made. In praying for their humiliation, Asaph seeks God's honor and glory. His desire is that all nations know that Israel's God, whose name is Yahweh, rules alone and is the Most High over all the earth.

A Song, a Psalm of Asaph.

- 1 O God, do not remain quiet; do not be silent and, O God, do not be still.
- 2 For behold, Your enemies make an uproar,
and those who hate You have exalted themselves.
- 3 They make shrewd plans against Your people,
and conspire together against Your treasured ones.
- 4 They have said, "Come, and let us wipe them out as a nation,
that the name of Israel be remembered no more."
- 5 For they have conspired together with one mind; against You they make a covenant:
- 6 The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, Moab and the Hagrites;
- 7 Gebal and Ammon and Amalek, Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre;
- 8 Assyria also has joined with them; they have become a help to the children of Lot. Selah

- 9 Deal with them as with Midian, as with Sisera and Jabin at the torrent of Kishon,
10 Who were destroyed at En-dor, who became as dung for the ground.
- 11 Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb and all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna,
12 who said, "Let us possess for ourselves the pastures of God."

- 13 O my God, make them like the whirling dust, like chaff before the wind.
- 14 Like fire that burns the forest and like a flame that sets the mountains on fire,
15 so pursue them with Your tempest and terrify them with Your storm.
- 16 Fill their faces with dishonor, that they may seek Your name, O YAHWEH.
- 17 Let them be ashamed and dismayed forever, and let them be humiliated and perish,
18 That they may know that You alone, whose name is YAHWEH,
are the Most High over all the earth.

PRAYER

Glorious God, whose name is Yahweh, we praise you for your almighty power in preserving Israel as a nation. Watch over them and bring peace to Jerusalem, the city

you have chosen to bear your name. Let us, your disciples, keep our eyes steadily looking for your second appearing, watching always in order that we may be found ready to give an account of our works when you gather us to yourself. There is much work to be done, much gospel seed to be sown, and much tribulation to overcome. Send us an abundance of your Holy Spirit that we fail not. Thank you Lord Jesus for interceding for us before the throne of grace. Amen.