

**Psalm 83 — “O God—Deal With Your Enemies Who Hate Israel!”**

- A dangerous place to be is to hate God and the people of Israel.
- God declares in the Abrahamic covenant that “the one who insults / verbally slights God’s chosen people will be severely cursed unto utter destruction!” (Pastor Geoff’s translation of Genesis 12.3a)

*Background to Psalm 83*

- Asaph wrote this. It’s a God-inspired *Hymn* on the Gittith (a stringed instrument) for congregational worship. A prayer, a lament, a desperate cry to God!
  - (1)As an **Interpreter** —
  - (2)As an **Exegete** —
  - (3)As an **Expositor** —
- Ps 83 — Psalm 83 is **more than a prayer or a plea to God for vengeance on Israel’s enemies**; it reveals that a 10-member confederacy [10-nation coalition] wants to destroy the Chosen People and possess the Promised Land.

**THESIS — This psalm teaches a profoundly serious occasion that we need to be aware of.**

## **I. THE COALITION OF NATIONS AGAINST ISRAEL (vv.1-8)**

- A. v.1- is a prayer - urgent, earnest, dire to GOD: calling on GOD to not be quiet, inactive, still >>> God we need you to act quickly for us.
- B.
- C. the big idea is v.4 — v.4 -come lets wipe them out; Hebrew = let’s make them “no-existence” // wipe them out // Hide them, conceal them so they are NO MORE. [This is nothing new; this is Israel’s history. Many have wanted to *wipe them out.*]

vv.6-8

**(1) their intention (1-5)**

**(2) their identity (6-8)**

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**II. THE INTERVENTION OF GOD FOR ISRAEL (vv.9-18)**

A. O Father: as you’ve delivered in the *past*; so do it again *now*.

B. O Lord--as you delivered before, do it again NOW!

C. past history (v.9-12)

1. Victory over the Midianites (Judges 6-8)

2. Victory over the Canaanites — Sisera (Judges 4-5)

D. passionate inquiries (v.13-18)

E. purposeful mercy (v.16, 18)

**Psalm 83 — “O God—Deal With Your Enemies Who Hate Israel!”****WHY SO MUCH HATRED OF ISRAEL – AND OF THE GOD OF ISRAEL?**

*Once again, the nations are in an uproar and Israel is at center stage – Jew-hatred is on the rise, and we cannot stand idly.*

Angry protests erupt worldwide, often characterized by hate-laced rhetoric and violence. It seems that not only the State of Israel but every Jewish person around the world is being weighed in the balance and positioned in the crosshairs. The fever-pitch of focused rage is shocking yet somehow familiar.

**The words of Psalm 83** reflect the grim realities of our day. Israel once again prays for deliverance as the enemies of God make an uproar. They conspire together and devise crafty plans against God’s people – to wipe them out as a nation. That the name of Israel would be remembered no more.

**Why do the nations rage against Israel?**

This is not a new phenomenon. It’s not merely criticism against the actions of a modern nation-state or political entity. History is rife with iterations of the same story of hatred against the Jews. This is an ancient battle in a modern context. And it is far from over.

For as long as the Jewish people have existed, antisemitism, often labeled the world’s “oldest hatred”, has marked their history. It comes in many forms: from vile accusations to cruel jokes, boycotts to cemetery desecration, Holocaust denial to genocidal threats, physical violence to murder.

I’m sure we can agree that all racism is evil. Yet there is something uniquely diabolical and pernicious about Jew-hatred. Antisemitism has a long and grievous history with deep spiritual roots.

**Antisemitism is hostility, prejudice, or discrimination against Jews simply because they are Jewish.** Like a stubborn weed, this ancient hatred has persisted through centuries. It is evidenced in various ways across many cultures and eras but is always rooted in deep-seated prejudice and unfounded hate.

**But why the rage?** Why have Jewish people been targeted with such intense hatred throughout history?

Simply stated, antisemitism is the most critical arena of spiritual warfare there is, because it’s connected to God’s eternal plan of salvation – a plan established before the foundations of the earth, which God chose to work through a specific family and a people.

**God’s Covenant People**

Through Israel, God brought forth the Messiah and continues to fulfill His covenant for all humanity, which He promised to Abraham and his seed, saying “...in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (Gen 12:3) This covenant of blessing is connected to another promise, spoken in the Garden of Eden when sin and death first plagued the human race. God vowed to send a “seed of the woman” to crush the head of the enemy and destroy the power of sin. This Seed of hope for all mankind would eventually come through the lineage of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – who became the Jewish people.

God’s covenant with Abraham included the promise of descendants and blessing for all nations. It also spoke of future suffering, harsh treatment, and miraculous deliverance.

As the servant of the Lord, Israel would be a light to the nations, God’s chosen vessel through whom His righteousness, justice, and mercy would be revealed. Israel would carry Hope to a hurting world.

A divine plan of this magnitude would not be enacted without deep resistance. At its core, antisemitism is essentially an attack against God’s covenant faithfulness.

In Revelation 12:4, we read that “the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.” In this picture, we see Israel as a woman in labor to bring forth the ultimate child of promise, Jesus, the Messiah, whose perfect sacrifice held the power to deliver the world from sin and death.

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Israel has a divine purpose as the Servant of the Lord and a Light to the Nations. That is why Satan has strategically targeted Israel for annihilation, assimilation, and suffering over every generation. He does so in an effort to stop God’s plan of redemption and make God out to be a liar and a loser.

This deep tension of blessing and battle has marked the Jewish people throughout their history and reveals the ongoing spiritual reality of God’s irrevocable promises.

**The nations continue to rage against God and His divine purposes.** The Jewish people have been oppressed and martyred, reviled, and exiled over centuries. The ancient demonic plot to extinguish Israel’s light persists, intending to uproot them and destroy them as a nation and a people.

In these moments, let us not ignore the words of Paul in Romans 11. **God has not rejected His people.** His promises have not been rescinded or annulled. The Creator still has plans for Israel. He is not done with His redemptive purposes, nor with Israel’s role in His story of salvation.

**Although the nations continue to rage, Israel, the servant of the Lord, and the Jewish people are still deeply rooted in the eternal plans of God. They remain a light to the nations and a perpetual witness of God’s covenant faithfulness.**

— Casey Tait     [<https://firmisrael.org/learn/what-is-antisemitism-why-the-rise-in-jew-hatred-today/>]

**Psalm 83 — "O God—Deal With Your Enemies Who Hate Israel!"****PSALM 83: PSALTER***Tune: There is a fountain filled with blood*

O God, no longer hold Thy peace,  
 No longer silent be;  
 Thine enemies lift up their head  
 To fight Thy saints and Thee.  
 Against Thine own, whom Thou dost  
 love,  
 Their craft Thy foes employ;  
 They think to cut Thy people off,  
 Thy church they would destroy

Thine ancient foes, conspiring still,  
 With one consent agree,  
 And they who with Thy people strive  
 Make war, O God, on Thee.  
 O God, Who in our fathers' time  
 Didst smite our foes and Thine,  
 So smite Thine enemies today  
 Who in their pride combine.

Make them like dust and stubble  
 blown  
 Before the whirlwind dire,  
 In terror driv'n before the storm  
 Of Thy consuming fire.  
 Confound them in their sin till they  
 To Thee for pardon fly,  
 Till in dismay they, trembling, own  
 That Thou art God Most High.

**CHRIST THE SURE & STEADY ANCHOR**

Christ, the sure and steady anchor  
 In the fury of the storm  
 When the winds of doubt blow through me  
 And my sails have all been torn.  
 In the suff'ring, in the sorrow,  
 When my sinking hopes are few,  
 I will hold fast to the anchor;  
 It shall never be removed.

Christ, the sure and steady anchor  
 While the tempest rages on,  
 When temptation claims the battle  
 And it seems the night has won;  
 Deeper still then goes the anchor  
 Though I justly stand accused;  
 I will hold fast to the anchor;  
 It shall never be removed.

Christ, the sure and steady anchor  
 Through the floods of unbelief;  
 Hopeless somehow, O my soul,  
 Now lift your eyes to Calvary.  
 This, my ballast of assurance;  
 See His love forever proved;  
 I will hold fast to the anchor;  
 It shall never be removed.

Christ, the sure and steady anchor  
 As we face the wave of death,  
 When these trials give way to glory,  
 As we draw our final breath;  
 We will cross that great horizon,  
 Clouds behind and life secure,  
 And the calm will be the better  
 For the storms that we endure.

Christ, the shore of our salvation,  
 Ever faithful, ever true;  
 We will hold fast to the anchor;  
 It shall never be removed.

**Psalm 83 — “O God—Deal With Your Enemies Who Hate Israel!”****CFBC MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENTS — reviewed and reaffirmed**

I promise to remain faithful to this church in membership. I will consult with the elders in advance if I sense that God is directing me elsewhere. If I must leave, I will unite with another true church.<sup>29</sup>

In summary, I will endeavor to love the Lord my God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength, and I will strive to love others as Christ loves me.<sup>30</sup>

I will not allow my weaknesses and failures to deter me from my intention to abide by these Christian standards. I will pursue holiness through genuine repentance and persevering faith in the One to whom I owe all obedience for time and eternity, the Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>31</sup>

**FOOTNOTES:**

<sup>29</sup> Proverbs 3:5-6; 11:14; 12:15; 15:22; 18:1; 19:20; 20:18; 24:6; 1 Corinthians 12:18; Philippians 2:3-4; Hebrews 10:24

<sup>30</sup> Mark 12:28-31; John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3; 1 John 3:16-19; 4:7-21

<sup>31</sup> Matthew 5:6; Philippians 3:12-14; Hebrews 12:1-4; 1 Peter 1:14-19