

Psalm 83

by Henry Law

The psalmist calls on God to avenge His cause and to exalt His name above all the earth.

Scripture: Psalm 83:1-2, Psalm 83:5, Psalm 83:18

Topics: "Faith And Prayer", "Gods Sovereignty"

Description

Henry Law preaches about the power of faith in prayer, urging believers to approach the mercy-seat boldly and persistently, seeking God's intervention against His enemies. The enemies of God are depicted as plotting in secrecy and loudly raging against His people, but God watches over His hidden ones and will ultimately exalt them. The multitude of confederate hosts against God are individually perceived by Him, and each will receive their due reward. Believers are encouraged to remind God of His past deeds of wrath and to trust in His power to overthrow the rebellious with shame, leading them to seek His name and acknowledge Him as the Most High over all the earth.

Transcript

God is called to mark the confederacy of the ungodly, and to avenge His cause as in times of old. God thus appearing shall be acknowledged as Jehovah.

1. "Keep not silence, O God; hold not Your peace, and do not be still, O God."

It is the happy privilege of faith to deal intimately at the mercy-seat. As a child it may boldly cling to a loving Father. With importunity it may crave attention. It may give God no rest until His power is displayed. Thus God is here implored to raise His voice against the enemies of His kingdom.

2. "For, lo, Your enemies make a tumult; and those who hate You have lifted up the head."

Shall God be silent, while those who hate Him are loud in insults? Shall He sit indifferent, while the earth rings with the tumult of rebellion? Speak, Lord, Your voice causes earth to be mute.

3-5. "They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, and consulted against Your hidden ones. They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. For they have consulted together with one consent; they are confederate against You."

Not only do they loudly rave; they plot in secrecy, and craftily devise rebellious plans. Hate is the moving principle within. It is misery to them that God's people live, are honored and exhibit power. In dark

conclave they consult to extinguish their name, and to bury them in oblivion. But God watches His hidden ones. They may not be conspicuous upon earth. No pomp may signalize their course. No grandeur may court homage. But God has known them before the world's birth, and will in due time proclaim them as kings and princes to Himself. Let none of His children complain that their way is hidden from their God. He has engraved them on the palms of His hands. They shall shine brightly in the day when He makes up His jewels.

6-8. "The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites, of Moab and the Hagarenes; Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines, with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assur also is joined with them; they have held the children of Lot."

If God knows His meek and humble followers, and calls them all by their names, so, also, He well knows the multitude of confederate hosts. The catalogue of Israel's adversaries classified by name, proves that the haters of God are individually perceived. The powers allied against Israel were all overthrown. Separately they perished. So all God's enemies shall be arraigned in distinct personality, and each shall receive his due reward. They will each hear, 'O you wicked one, thus and thus have you done; thus and thus must you be requited.' Crowds shall not hide individuality.

9-12. "Do unto them as unto the Midianites; as to Sisera, as to Jabin, at the brook of Kison; which perished at Endor; they became as refuse for the earth. Make their nobles like Oreb and like Zeeb; yes, all their princes as Zebah and as Zalmunna; who said, Let us take to ourselves the houses of God in possession."

It is true piety to remind God of His former deeds of wrath, and to implore Him again to do as He has done.

13-17. "O my God, make them like a tumbleweed; as the stubble before the wind. As the fire burns a forest, and as the flame sets the mountains on fire; so persecute them with Your tempest, and make them afraid with Your storm. Fill their faces with shame, that they may seek Your name, O Lord. Let them be confounded and troubled forever; yes, let them be put to shame, and perish."

Graphic images show the weakness of rebellious men. Their stability is as a tumbleweed. Their firmness drifts as stubble before the wind. They yield as the trees of the forest to the power of devouring flame. God is besought to overthrow them with shame, that they may humbly seek His knowledge.

18. "That men may know that You, whose name alone is Jehovah, are the Most High over all the earth."

The ultimate desire is that He who alone bears the incommunicable name of Jehovah, the self-existent, and the cause of all life, may be exalted above all the earth, and that every tongue may praise, and honor, and adore Him. In accordance may the longings of our hearts be to magnify His name.

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