

Series: Psalms

Title: Hidden by the Most High

Text: Ps 83: 1-18

Date: Aug 29, 2021

Place: SGBC, NJ

Psalm 83: 1: «A Song *or* Psalm of Asaph.» Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God. 2: For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head. 3: They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. 4: 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. 5: For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee: 6: The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes; 7 Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; 8: Assur also is joined with them: they have holpen the children of Lot. Selah.

9: Do unto them as *unto* the Midianites; as *to* Sisera, as *to* Jabin, at the brook of Kison: 10: *Which* perished at Endor: they became *as* dung for the earth. 11: Make their nobles like Oreb, and like Zeeb: yea, all their princes as Zebah, and as Zalmunna: 12: Who said, Let us take to ourselves the houses of God in possession. 13: O my God, make them like a wheel; as the stubble before the wind. 14: As the fire burneth a wood, and as the flame setteth the mountains on fire; 15: So persecute them with thy tempest, and make them afraid with thy storm. 16: Fill their faces with shame; that they may seek thy name, O LORD. 17: Let them be confounded and troubled for ever; yea, let them be put to shame, and perish: 18: That *men* may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, *art* the most high over all the earth.

Psalm 83: 1: «A Song *or* Psalm of Asaph.» Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God.

God's people need God to speak to us and we need God to protect us—“*Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God.*” Believers need to hear a word from God. David said,

Psalm 28:1: «*A Psalm of David.*» Unto thee will I cry, O LORD my rock; be not silent to me: lest, *if* thou be silent to me, I become like them that go down into the pit.

God may be silent in the sense of making us perceive it to be so. But at all times God our Savior upholds all things by the word of his power. God waits until his time to move—our times are in his hands. We perceive God to be still as he waits to be gracious. But at all times God is actively working all things together for good to them that love God to them who are the called according to his purpose.

But God's purpose in making us to perceive him as silent and as waiting is to bring us to cry to him as the Psalmist does, “*Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God.*”

ENEMIES

We need God to speak and to act on our behalf due to enemies. Believers have many enemies. Unseen enemies—the devil and wicked spirits. Unregenerate people of the world. Our own sin-nature. We see the characteristics of enemies in this Psalm.

The enemies of God's people are God's enemies—*Psalm 83: 2: For, lo, thine enemies*...Notice those who are enemies to God's people are God's enemies—“*For, lo, thine enemies.*” Any who are enemies against God's people are the enemies of God. This is great comfort to us brethren. God shall protect his people from all our enemies because they are God's enemies.

The enemy is boisterous—*Psalm 83: 2...Thine enemies make a tumult.* The enemies of God are always trying to disrupt the peace of God's people. They are daring and defiant in their attempts to cause great tumult, trouble, and unrest.

God's enemies operate from a natural heart of enmity against God which is a proud natural heart—*Psalm 83: 2...and they that hate thee have lifted up the head.* The carnal mind is enmity against God. The carnal

mindful man lifts up the head in pride, arrogant in self-will, in defiance against God. This is the natural heart—the sin-nature—that Christ alone must free his people from. The natural heart hates God's very being, hates God's perfections and purposes and providence, hates his Son without a cause, hates the Gospel, hates to see God's people assemble under the preaching of the gospel. This same carnal sin-nature is in every child God saves. This is the nature God saves his child from by creating a new man within us by his Spirit by the incorruptible seed of the living word.

We need God to protect us because the enemy is crafty—*Psalm 83: 3: They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. 4: 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.* The serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which God created. So are the enemies of God—"they have taken crafty counsel against thy people." We see it in the way the enemies of God dealt with our Savior

Luke 20:20: And they watched *him*, and sent forth spies, which should feign themselves just men, that they might take hold of his words, that so they might deliver him unto the power and authority of the governor. 21: And they asked him, saying, Master, we know that thou sayest and teachest rightly, neither acceptest thou the person of *any*, but teachest the way of God truly: 22: Is it lawful for us to give tribute unto Caesar, or no? 23: But he perceived their craftiness, and said unto them, Why tempt ye me?

Our Savior knew their hearts. He knows the hearts of all men, even all our enemies. None are so crafty as to outwit our all-knowing sovereign Redeemer!

The enemy is divided amongst themselves but they are united against God and his people—*Psalm 83: 5: For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee: 6: The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes; 7: Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; 8: Assur also is joined with them: they have holpen the children of Lot. Selah.* These all came from one man, Adam. Some were descendants of physical brothers. Yet, we see the division sin has caused—"a man's foes will be they of his own household." Edom is Esau's descendants, Jacob's brother; Ishmaelites were Ishmael's descendants, Isaac's brother. Esau hated God therefore he hated his brother Jacob because he was chosen of God. So it was with Ishmael and his children against Isaac and the true children of God. As it was then so it is now; those born after the flesh persecute them born after the Spirit.

Every sinner in this world descended from the same father, Adam. But sin has divided every sinner against every other sinner. Scripture describes our natural condition as "hateful and hating one another." Every spiritually dead sinner is united together as enemies of God and his people. It takes God putting away our sin by Christ's blood and giving us one Spirit, one faith, to make his people one.

Brethren, we are no match for the devil nor for any enemy who hates God. Our enemies are crafty. They are united in enmity against God and against us. The entire world is united with one desire to cut God's people off so that they are no more in remembrance. That is how bad the enmity of the carnal heart really is. Our salvation against every enemy of God is God himself. This assurance is that those who are the enemies of God's people are the enemies of God and God shall protect his people.

GOD'S PEOPLE ARE HIDDEN ONES

Notice, who God's people are—*Psalm 83: 3...they have taken crafty counsel against THY people, and consulted against THY HIDDEN ONES.*

God has a people in this world who are his—"thy people"—they are God's "*hidden ones.*" Before making the world, God made his people his own by free grace, choosing whom he would. God hid his people in Christ by choosing us in him and blessing us with all spiritual blessings.

The one reason the wrath of God did not destroy Adam when he fell in sin is because God had an elect people hidden in Christ. The one reason God did not destroy us when we were born in sin is God chose his people and hid us in Christ. The one reason we are safe right now from this antagonistic world is God has hidden his people in Christ our Refuge.

Isaiah 32:2: And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

When Christ bore our sin and the wrath of God fell on him, all God's elect were hidden in Christ, like Noah was hidden in the ark from the flood. Now, Christ having put away our sin, having put away the condemnation, having arisen to God's right hand, the Spirit of God quickens each redeemed sinner to life and makes us know,

Colossians 3:3: For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Therefore, in the midst of all the tumult and the conspiring of every enemy, God keeps us knowing and believing on Christ alone. God has hidden us in Christ as a man hides precious jewels. Christ is the secret hiding place where God has hidden us.

Psalm 91:1: He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Our assurance of preservation is God keeping us hidden in Christ

Psalm 27:5: For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

Psalm 31:20: Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

So God keeps us crying to him, praising him, sanctifying him above all our enemies by asking for him to hide us in Christ our Refuge

Psalm 17:8: Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings,

Psalm 32:7: Thou *art* my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.

Psalm 64:2: Hide me from the secret counsel of the wicked; from the insurrection of the workers of iniquity:

Psalm 119:114: Thou *art* my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.

Psalm 143:9 Deliver me, O LORD, from mine enemies: I flee unto thee to hide me.

GOD GIVES THE VICTORY

True faith depends upon God to save us from every enemy. In each of the battles listed here, God saved his chosen from the enemy. It was God who won the battle. It was God who gave them the victory. Therefore, the Psalmist calls on God to do again what he has done for his people in the past—*Psalm 83: 9: Do unto them as unto the Midianites; as to Sisera, as to Jabin, at the brook of Kison: 10: Which perished at Endor: they became as dung for the earth. 11: Make their nobles like Oreb, and like Zeeb: yea, all their princes as Zebah, and as Zalmunna: 12: Who said, Let us take to ourselves the houses of God in possession. 13: O my God, make them like a wheel; as the stubble before the wind. 14: As the fire burneth a wood, and as the flame setteth the mountains on fire; 15: So persecute them with thy tempest, and make them afraid with thy storm.*

Throughout every age, God alone saved his hidden ones from every enemy. It was by God's tempest, by God's storm. Do you see the psalmist praying for God to save from the enemy as he has in every battle?

God's tempest fell on our Substitute saving us from ourselves and from every enemy: from the law's curse, from our sins, from our God-hating nature, from the devil, from every enemy in this world. God alone continues to save us from our enemies. "We are more than conquerors through Christ who loved us."

Yet, by God's grace God brings us to pray for our enemies that God may save his people from their midst—*Psalm 83: 16: Fill their faces with shame; that they may seek thy name, O LORD.* Sinners only seek Christ to save when God fills our faces with shame. God fills our face with the shame of the sin we are: sin against God, shame of our pride and self-righteousness, shame of rejecting such a holy, just and good Savior as Christ the Redeemer, the shame of once being one with the enemies of God, the shame of refusing to believe on Christ.

If there be any whose face God has filled with shame, seek the name of the LORD. Believe on Christ and cast all your care on Christ. God delights to show mercy to sinners for Christ's sake.

Micah 7: 18: Who *is* a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth *in* mercy. 19: He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. 20: Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, *and* the mercy to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old.

God's dealings with us and with his enemies, shall make men know that God is really God—*Psalm 83: 17: Let them be confounded and troubled for ever; yea, let them be put to shame, and perish: 18: That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth.*

His name alone is Jehovah. Christ alone is the most high over all the earth. God is seen in Christ. Christ Jesus is Jehovah God the Everlasting I AM. He is the one Savior of chosen sinners. Christ is the one Savior of sinners who flee to him trusting him along to hide us and save us. God alone makes his elect, redeemed, regenerated people do so. But every person who ever lived shall know this and confess him to be the most high whether they believe on him now or not. In that great day everyone shall bow and confess Christ.

Philippians 2: 9: Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; 11: And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Psalm 2: 12: Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish *from* the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed *are* all they that put their trust in him.

Let us cast it all on Jehovah Jesus as the Psalmist does. Believer you are his hidden ones. Beginning to end, he wins every battle. Your warfare is accomplished. Let us pray for enemies that God may save his people from among them. Let us pray for God to exalt his name.

Amen!