

## LESSONS FROM PSALMS EIGHTY-THREE

Scripture: Psalm 83:1-18

Ray O. Brooks

### Introduction:

- A This Psalm was written by Asaph at some time when Israel was being sorely tested; a time when the powers that be were anti-God and anti-Israel; a time when it was not popular to be for God.
- B. Since that time seems to mirror our own time, we find some very timely practical lessons in this Psalm.

### I. LEARN SOME FACTS ABOUT THE PEOPLES OF THIS WORLD. vs. 2-8, 12

- A. This world hates God and His true people.
  - 1. Then—v.2 For, 10, your enemies rage, and those who hate you lift up their haughty heads.
  - 2. Now— so many do not want God's Name mentioned in public anywhere. —Russia—China—Japan
- B. This world makes plans to overthrow God and destroy His people.
  - 1. Then —verses 3-5 They make crafty plans against your people. They plot together against those whom you protect. They say "Come, let us wipe them out as a nation so that the name of Israel will be remembered no more. For they have conspired with one accord and form an alliance against you."
  - 2. Now—
    - a. Laws are passed to force God out of the classrooms and out of the public eye. Germany— Russia
    - b. God and Christianity are made light of.

### II. LEARN THAT GOD'S OWN PEOPLE BECOME ANXIOUS FOR GOD TO ACTIVELY DEAL WITH THOSE WHO PLOT AGAINST GOD AND HIS PEOPLE. vs. 1, 9-11, 13-17

- A. The Psalmist seem to have voiced our feelings...Lord, God, Do not remain silent...Do not hold your peace any longer...Lord, God...Speak to them...Get active...Deal with them NOW.
- B. Lord, God...Deal with the leaders of this revolt just like you dealt with Oreb and Zeeb and make all of them like Zebah and Zalmunna. v.11 (Judges 7:19-8:21—the time when God used Gideon to destroy Midian.) 120,000
- C. O my God, make them like leaves in a whirlwind and as straw before the wind. v.13
- D. Make them as wood in a fire and as mountains on fire. v.14
- E. Persecute them with your storm and terrify them with your tornado. v.15
- F. Fill their faces with shame and disgrace. v.16

### III. LEARN THAT THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE SHOULD ALWAYS BE MOTIVATED BY THE RIGHT ATTITUDE. vs. 16,18

- A. Vengeance is never the right attitude.
  - 1. As in this Psalm, the attitude may be wrong when we begin.
  - 2. But a right heart will cause us to end up with the right motive in asking God to deal with those whom, trouble us and speak wickedly of God.
- B. Prayers for God to deal with such people should be motivated by our concern for those who hate God and mistreat God's people.
  - 1. That even these may know that God, whose name is Jehovah, is the only God and is the MOST HIGH over all the earth. v.18
  - 2. And in knowing this, that they may seek after God and be converted. v.16
- C. Illustrations.

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1. Saul of Tarsus - Stephen prayed for Saul
2. Vernon L. Barr - a confirmed atheist in his young life became a great preacher.