

Psalm 83

The nations represented in Psalm 83 had never joined together before the 20th Century rebirth of the state of Israel. The unifying factors in their opposition to the Jewish state are religion and western colonialism, but the real root is resistance to God's plan for the restoration of Israel to the land and His plan stated in the Tanach, the bible, for the reconciling of the world to himself.

The first two nations, Edom and the Ishmaelites, are synonymous today with the entire Arab-Muslim world and provide a broader understanding of the present situation when considering Ezekiel 38:3-8. This is because both people groups are thought to have migrated further south into the Arabian Peninsula--the seat of Islam. Moreover, Islam considers Ishmael their spiritual link to Abraham and through him as the true inheritor of the covenant blessing. The Arab-Muslim world stretches from Morocco to Oman but Muslims number more than 1,600,000,000 worldwide.

"For they have consulted together with one consent; they form a confederacy against You: The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites; Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assyria also has joined with them; they have helped the children of Lot. Selah"
Psalm 83:5-8

The Hebrew word **breet** בְּרִית is translated as confederacy, which is more adequately translated as *covenant*. The Palestinian National Charter, also known as the Palestinian National Covenant, states in Article 9 that, "Armed struggle is the only way to liberate Palestine," and Article 15:

"The liberation of Palestine, from an Arab viewpoint, is a national duty and it attempts to repel the Zionist and imperialist aggression against the Arab homeland, and aims at the elimination of Zionism in Palestine. Absolute responsibility for this falls upon the Arab nation - peoples and governments - with the Arab people of Palestine in the vanguard. Accordingly, the Arab nation must mobilize all its military, human, moral, and spiritual capabilities to participate actively with the Palestinian people in the liberation of Palestine. It must, particularly in the phase of the armed Palestinian revolution, offer and furnish the Palestinian people with all possible help, and material and human support, and make available to them the means and opportunities that will enable them to continue to carry out their leading role in the armed revolution, until they liberate their homeland."

The Palestinian people have defined their role as leaders in the unification of the Islamic Arab states and the destruction of the state of Israel. This is in direct conflict with the stated purposes of God in bringing the Jewish people back to the land of Israel. The following is the list of nations that would *"form a confederacy"* against God and His people Israel to, *"cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more."*

1. **Edom** (Gen. 36:1, 16) and **Amalek** (Gen. 36:12) resided in the areas of what is presently known as Southern Jordan and the lower region of the Gaza strip.
2. The **Ishmaelites** (Gen. 25:12) were from northern Arabia and very likely the Arab Emirates.
3. **Ammon** (Gen. 19:38) and **Moab** (Gen. 19:37) are east of the Jordan River and Dead Sea in present day Jordan.
4. The **Hagrites** (Gen. 21:9-10) are the descendants of Hagar from Egypt and considering its affiliation with Egypt and Islam, the Sudan might also be included.
5. **Gebal** (Ez. 27:9) & **Tyre** are Lebanon. Tyre is presently the home of Hizbullah.
6. **Philistia** includes Gaza and some of the West Bank.
7. **Assyria** and the children of **Lot** are Iraq and Syria.

These nations have a common purpose under the banner of Islam but previous attempts at unification have failed over the centuries. However, the formation of the state of Israel in the 20th Century has given cause for the whole of the Islamic world to focus on an enemy that is occupying territory in the heartland of Islam and taken control of Jerusalem, the third in importance of Islam's three holy cities.

Jerusalem and the land of Israel has been occupied and claimed by both Christian and Muslim rulers throughout the ages. It was not until 1948 that the land once again became the possession of the Jewish people in fulfillment of the promises of God proclaimed throughout the Old and New Covenants. In the prophetic writings in the bible, it is explained that the return of Israel will be contested just as it is today however, God will triumph and Israel will survive.

The Muslim world view divides humanity into two opposing halves. One side Dar ul-Salaam, is the House of Peace and is blessed by Allah. It is the area where Islam rules and subjects all others. The other side is Dar ul-Harb, the House of War. It is the area that is occupied by non-Muslims and is considered cursed by Allah and is at war against Him. This world view dictates that war will continue between these two sections of humanity until the supremacy of Allah and Islam is fully established throughout the world. The history of Islam exemplifies that their preferred method of transforming nations from the House of War to the House of Peace is through Jihad. Once a nation is conquered, religious persecution and discrimination are utilized to wear down the population until all submit to Allah.

In Psalm 83 verses 16 through 18 represent the heart of the conflict which centers on the true name of the God, Yahweh, and consequently His plan to return the scattered Jewish people to the land, establishing Israel as a state once again. The god of Islam is Allah, not Yahweh, and his followers reject the reestablishment of the state of Israel which finds its validity in a covenant to counter to the one Yahweh established with Israel.

As you read through the psalm it clearly states that the nations mentioned are bent not only on the destruction of the state of Israel but they are referred to as the enemies of *elohim* who **hate** Him (verse 2) and want to **take** His land (verse 12). The result of the conflict is that they will **know Yahweh** by name and that He alone is Lord (verse 16), **not Allah**.

Here is the Psalm with the names of God highlighted with its proper Hebrew usage in each verse.

Psalm 83:

1 A Song. A Psalm of Asaph. "Do not keep silent, O God (**elohim** אֱלֹהִים)! Do not hold Your peace, and do not be still, O God (**el**)!

2 For behold, **Your enemies** make a tumult; and **those who hate You** have lifted up their head.

3 They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, and consulted together against Your sheltered ones.

4 They have said, "**Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more.**" (Compare with current Iranian and Islamic threats.)

5 For they have consulted together with one consent; they form a confederacy (covenant **breet** בְּרִית) against you:

6 The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites;

7 Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre;

8 Assyria also has joined with them; they have helped the children of Lot. Selah

9 Deal with them as with Midian, as with Sisera, as with Jabin at the Brook Kishon,

10 Who perished at En Dor, who became as refuse on the earth.

11 Make their nobles like Oreb and like Zeeb, Yes, all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna,

12 Who said, "**Let us take for ourselves the pastures of God (**Elohim** אֱלֹהִים) for a possession.**"

13 O my God (**Elohim** אֱלֹהִים), make them like the whirling dust, like the chaff before the wind!

14 As the fire burns the woods, and as the flame sets the mountains on fire,

15 So pursue them with Your tempest, and frighten them with Your storm.

16 Fill their faces with shame, that they may seek Your name, O LORD (Yahweh** יְהוָה).**

17 Let them be confounded and dismayed forever; yes, let them be put to shame and perish,

18 That they may know that You, whose name alone is the LORD (Yahweh** יְהוָה), are the Most High (**elyon**) over all the earth.**

